

LATE CITY FINAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 / Mostly cloudy, 78°/ Weather: Page 32 ★★ SUNDAY nypost.com $2.00



Jason Szenes

METS MAGIC

Beat 1st-place Phils in playoff push

SEE SPORTS

Pillow stalk

RFK Jr. blocked 'obsessive' journo: source

PAGES 12-13

Survey: More NYC pupils feel unsafe, bullied, unhappy at school

KIDS ARE ALL FRIGHT

While Chancellor David Banks painted a rosy picture of the Big Apple's public schools this week, the results of a 355,000-student survey were grim — with a growing number of kids saying they must confront bullies and gangbangers every day, and feel less happy and optimistic in the classroom, than a year ago. One Manhattan teen said she's already heard classmates, in the first two weeks of school, demanding cash and making threats like, "I will pop you." The freshman named Jenny lamented, "It makes you feel scared."

SEE PAGES 4-5



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LOTTERY

NEW YORK
■ Midday Nos. Sat.: **471**
■ Midday Win-4 Sat.: **7638**
■ Midday Take 5 Sat.: **5, 13, 29, 35, 37**
■ Evening Nos. Sat.: **896**
■ Evening Win-4 Sat.: **0386**
■ Evening Take-5 Sat.: **4, 11, 16, 28, 37**
■ Lotto Sat.: **1, 8, 18, 41, 48, 57**; Bonus: **3**
■ Pick-10 Sat.: **3, 6, 8, 14, 23, 26, 30, 33, 44, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 59, 61, 64, 70, 71, 78**
■ Cash-4-Life Sat.: **22, 44, 47, 51, 57**; Cash Ball: **3**
■ Powerball Sat.: **17, 19, 21, 37, 45**; Powerball: **14**; Power Play: **x2**

NEW JERSEY
Pick-3 Sat.: **688**; Fireball: **6**
Pick-4 Sat.: **8771**; Fireball: **6**
Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: **6, 7, 18, 32, 42**; Xtra: **3**

CONNECTICUT
Play-3 Sat.: **494**; Wild: **7**
Play-4 Sat.: **8415**; Wild: **7**
Cash-5 Sat.: **5, 15, 20, 23, 32**

Push to probe DOE-kin Disney trip

Federal officials should consider criminal charges against six city employees who took their own family members to Disney World and on other costly trips meant for homeless students, an advocate is urging authorities.

"This appears to be a criminal use of federal funds for homeless students, involving forgery and fraud," said Leonie Haimson, executive director of Class Size Matters.

As first reported by The Post, Linda M. Wilson, a Queens manager of "students in temporary housing," and five employees she supervised used "forged permission slips" to take their daughters, sons and grandkids to the Magic Kingdom in Orlando, Washington, DC, New Orleans and upstate Rocking Horse Ranch Resort, among multiple locales.

Haimson said she wrote to the US Department of Education's inspector general, the office charged with investigating civil and criminal violations of federal funding, to call for a probe. Employees said a $300,000 federal grant was used to fund the trips. The city's Special Commissioner of Investigation for city schools didn't refer the employees for criminal prosecution.

The city DOE wouldn't answer questions about the cost of out-of-town trips, or explain how they are funded. Wilson (right) denied taking her daughters on trips and any other wrongdoing.

Susan Edelman



Facebook Linda Wilson

FDNY's heart 'failure'

Slow response kills 80% of cardiac-arrest vics

By RICH CALDER

Four out of five New Yorkers who go into cardiac arrest die as the FDNY's response times to medical emergencies continue to soar.

City firefighters and medics revived just 20% of all cardiac-arrest patients during the fiscal year ending June 30, the worst success rate since the FDNY began documenting the statistic more than a decade ago, according to the annual Mayor's Management Report.

"It's absolutely shocking to learn that four out of five cardiac-arrest calls in New York City end in the death of a patient," Andrew Ansbro, president of the Uniformed Firefighters Association, told The Post.

"New York City needs to address the ever-increasing response times and volume of calls with more resources for the FDNY. We are responding to more life-threatening calls than ever before, slower than we have ever been, and the results are far too often fatal.

"The FDNY needs to figure out why we can't get firetrucks and ambulances there fast enough, and we need to reverse this trend," Ansbro added. "We're talking about literally thousands of lives lost every year . . . and survivability is directly related to response times."

For a third straight fiscal year, FDNY firefighters and medics took longer to get to medical emergencies. Combined response times by FDNY ambulances and fire companies to "life-threatening medical emergencies" were 10 minutes and three seconds in FY 2024, up 13 seconds, or 2.2%, compared to the previous 12 months.

Cardiac cases not treated with CPR in eight minutes usually end in death, and brain damage is common if untreated after five minutes, experts say.

Survival for cardiac arrest patients could be as high as 90% if treated within the first minutes.

Robert Miller

CARDIAC CITY

Four out of five New Yorkers who go into cardiac arrest are dying as FDNY medical response times soar.

Year	Avg. response time	Cardiac revival rate
2022	9 min. 30 sec.	29%*
2023	9 min. 50 sec.	28%*
2024	10 min. 3 sec.	20%

*percentage tallied using previous FDNY measuring system
Source: NYC Mayor's Management Report

FDNY medics and firefighters responded to 633,361 "life-threatening medical emergencies" — including 30,038 cardiac arrests or choking incidents — in fiscal 2024, according to the MMR. In fiscal 2019, they handled 567,757 and 26,231, respectively.

Response times have jumped because the number of emergency calls is up, staffing is short and resources strained, the head of the union representing city EMTs and paramedics said.

Oren Barzilay, president of Local 2507 of District Council 37, added that City Hall's anti-car agenda has narrowed more streets and changed traffic patterns, slowing down drivers, including first responders.

The bleak cardiac-arrest survival rate comes as the FDNY this past year changed how it measured revivals.

Success rates under the old metrics were as high as 35% in Fiscal Year 2019 but dropped to 28% by FY 2023.

FDNY spokeswoman Amanda Farinacci Gonzalez said the city's survival rate is comparable to national average for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest patients.

Student OMNY-card $harks still at it

New York city kids are boarding the gravy train as they continue to pawn off their special student OMNY cards last week, although the MTA and city Department of Education claims that they are cracking down on illegal sales of the free transit passes.

The cards, which allow students four rides any time of day for an entire year, were still going for up to $350 this past week, The Post found, despite its front-page exposé busting students for pushing the scam. One sly student was seeking $1,500 for one card on Facebook Marketplace.

This week, posts by students from Flushing, Queens, to Gravesend, Brooklyn, to the East Shore of Staten Island, offered the cards, which replaced the student MetroCards previously given to students, for $100, $200 and as much as $350.

The new program from the state and the city provided 1.5 million cards to schools, funded with $5 million from the state Department of Transportation and $50.5 million from the city Department of Education.

Cards can be deactivated if students report them lost and request a new one from their schools.

Deirdre Bardolf

NYers in low $pirits

Bottoms up — and bank account down. Over three-fourths of liquor-loving New Yorkers confessed they've experienced "financial hangovers," or the dreaded feeling that a night of drinking left their bank account hammered, according to a new survey.

Of the 318 Gothamites questioned, half admitted they've thrown caution to the wind by not setting a budget for a boozy night out, according to the survey by Casino.org, while 66% said they avoided assessing the punch to their bank balance between evening festivities and 3% were too drunk to keep track.

By the next morning, 91% of respondents said they've waken up feeling anxious about how much dough they dished out. Big Apple partiers wait an average of over two full days to check their bank accounts, the survey revealed.

The top culprit is food, with almost 50% of respondents admitting to forking over too much for drunken munchies. In second place, 34% said they regretted spending so much money on drinks.

Spending approximately $250 in one night is enough to make the average New Yorker feel financially fuzzy, the survey found.

Georgia Worrell

Harry's 'heli' awards haha

Prince Harry cracked a joke when presenting an award at Kevin Costner's charity event — without Meghan Markle, who stayed away from the star-studded event due to an illness, per a report.

The 40-year-old joked with Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office helicopter pilot Loren Courtney, saying he "rarely sees his family because he's always here flying helicopters," according to People.

The annual event serves as a benefit for first responders.

Nicholas McEntyre

New 'One' top$ box

"Transformers One" topped "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" on its first day in theaters, raking in $9.56 million at the box office, according to The Numbers.

The movie dethroned the cult classic sequel after its two weeks at No. 1. This Friday, the Tim Burton film came in second at the box office, with sales of $6.6 million.

Angela Barbuti

KATE THE GREAT

By ALEXANDRA BELLUSCI

She's royally revered.

The Princess of Wales is the most popular member of the British royal family, according to a new poll out of the United Kingdom.

Kate Middleton, who resumed royal duties earlier this week following the completion of her cancer treatment, topped the Ipsos survey, which asked Britons between the ages of 18-75 about their feelings toward the family.

A sizable 66% of respondents feel favorably toward Kate, 42, while only 10% have an unfavorable opinion of her.

It was a different story for Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, who were among the least popular members of the royal family, along with Jeffrey Epstein associate Prince Andrew.

Only 28% of Brits feel favorably toward Prince Harry, while 46% feel unfavorably.

The numbers were even more dire for Meghan, with a 21% favorability rating and a 53% unfavorability rating.

Only disgraced Andrew fared worse, with just 10% of Brits feeling favorably toward him, in contrast to the 66% who feel unfavorably.

Ipsos did note that Harry and Meghan polled better with younger Britons, many of whom were support of the prince returning to the UK as a working royal.

Kate's husband, Prince William, was the second most popular with a 65% favorability rating and a 13% unfavorability rating.

The third most loved was Princess Anne, the only daughter of the late Queen Elizabeth. The accomplished equestrian — dubbed a "badass" earlier this year for wielding an unruly horse in the Trooping The Colour ceremony — has a 62% favorability rating, while only 9% hold an unfavorable opinion.

The survey also found King Charles is largely well-liked in his second year as monarch. Charles, who has also been battling cancer, came in fourth, with a 56% favorability score.

But none of the current royals rival the late Queen Elizabeth. In a separate Ipsos survey conducted in May 2022, four months before her death, 86% of Brits said they were satisfied with the job Her Majesty was doing.



Getty Images for W+P

SCHOOLS OF HARD KNOCKS

NYC kids feel unsafe in class

By GEORGIA WORRELL

While Chancellor David Banks painted a rosy picture of the Big Apple's public schools this week, the results of a citywide student survey show a darker reality — with a growing number of kids saying they are bullied, unhappy and unsafe.

Of 355,105 K-12 students polled by the city Department of Education this spring, 51% said harassment, bullying and intimidation by classmates was common. Last year, 48% of students felt that way.

Gang activity occurred some or most of the time in school, 27% of students said, up 2% from last year.

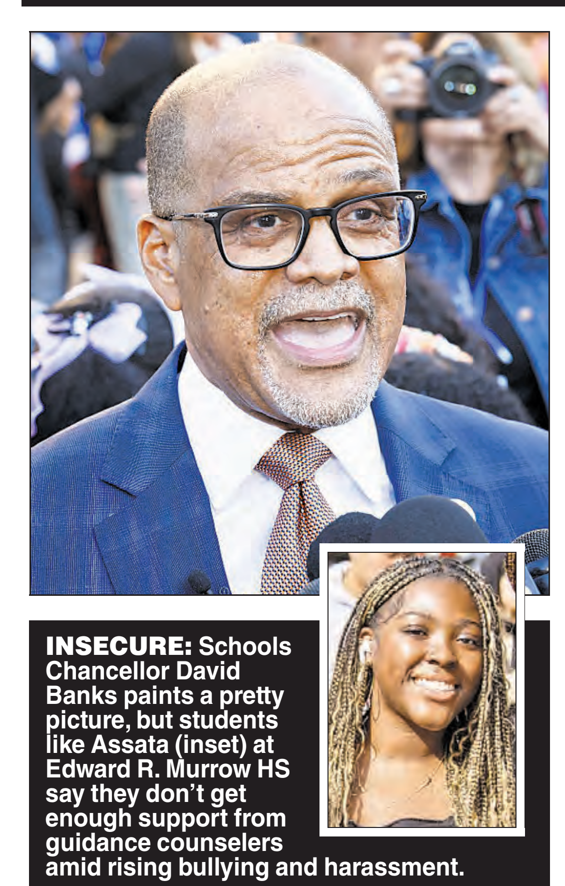
More kids feel unsafe and unhappy, the DOE survey found, with 20% of kids disagreeing with the statement "most days I have felt safe when at school," a 3% increase from 2023. And 26% of kids rejected the phrase "most days I have felt happy when at school," up from 24% a year earlier.

One Manhattan teen said she's already heard classmates, within the first two weeks of school, claiming to be gangbangers, demanding cash and making threats like, "I will pop you."

"It makes you feel scared," said Jenny, 15, a freshman at Stephen T. Mather Building Arts & Craftsmanship HS in Hell's Kitchen.

Another teen who attends Urban Assembly Gateway School for Technology, located in the same West 49th Street building, said it's hard to know who's bluffing and who's really in a gang.

"I feel like they're mostly wannabes, but you never really know," said Mason, 15, a junior.



INSECURE: Schools Chancellor David Banks paints a pretty picture, but students like Assata (inset) at Edward R. Murrow HS say they don't get enough support from guidance counselers amid rising bullying and harassment.

A spring survey of 355,105 New York City K-12 students shows a growing number — 20% in 2024 compared to 17% in 2023 — feel unsafe, while 26% of students say they're generally unhappy at school.

Safety issue	Percentage of students who said the problem is "common"		
	2024	2023	Increase
Harassment, bullying	51%	48%	+3%
Gang activity	27%	25%	+2%
Fights	48%	45%	+3%
Cyberbullying	42%	38%	+4%
Bullying based on race/religion	38%	34%	+4%
Bullying based on body type/disability	39%	35%	+4%

Source: DOE 2024 School Survey

'A lot of shootings'

Fear seems to go hand in hand with more gangs and guns in school.

"So far this year, there's been a lot of school shootings everywhere, so it makes students feel a lot more overwhelmed and more nervous to come to school," Mason explained.

On Thursday, two kids were caught bringing guns into Flushing HS in Queens, and a teen was shot at a Staten Island playground a block from a school.

On Friday, a 16-year-old was found with a gun in Mott Hall HS in Harlem, police said.

In May, two boys were slashed — one in the face and another in the torso — inside Mason's school building. Kids have been traumatized ever since, one sophomore said.

"My mom even wanted me to transfer schools because of it," said Maru, 15.

The troubling survey results were quietly released in August.

With city students cowering in class, new statistics show major crimes are up in schools.

Robberies on campus went up 18%, from 28 last year to 33 in fiscal year 2024, which ended June 30. Grand larcenies jumped 20%, from 156 in 2023 to 187 in 2024, and felony assaults edged up 2%, from 136 to 139 this year, according to the Mayor's Management Report.

Citywide, crimes against victims 17 and younger jumped 14% from fiscal year 2023, according to NYPD data in the report.

"Schools are in very big trouble with the amount of incidents happening in every neighborhood, with an overall uptick of gang violence, bullying and crime," said Mona Davids, cofounder of the NYC School Safety Coalition, noting that weapons are being seized from schools "at an alarming rate."

Banks' "lax" policies that fail to hold students accountable and DOE administrators who don't fully report incidents for fear of making their schools look bad are also part of the problem, she contended.

"The bottom line is that children are fearful, and no child can learn in an unsafe environment — so these children are not learning, and that is a big problem," Davids said.

At Edward R. Murrow HS in Midwood — where 13 knives, seven pepper-spray canisters and a box cutter were seized after a male student stabbed another in December — teens have become increasingly divided by gang affiliations, one junior said.

"Our school is very separated

SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

The Department of Education's citywide spring survey of K-12 showed a growing number of kids feel unsafe, bullied, surrounded by gangs and generally unhappy. Here are some of the worst examples of bad behavior in city schools:

An 11-year-old girl at Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented in Coney Island endured chronic bullying in school and online (pictured below), including physical assaults, last school year — while educrats did little to stop it. "It's a scary time to send your kids to school in this country for a plethora of reasons," like high crime citywide, "and it's absolutely inexcusable in what is supposed to be the greatest nation in the world," her father told The Post this week.



A wave of violence in just over an hour saw four students slashed in three separate stabbings at New York City schools on May 14. Two students slashed each other — one in the face and one in the torso — at a Hell's Kitchen school complex; another student was stabbed in a gang attack inside the Evander Childs Educational Campus in The Bronx; and a fourth was knifed at the Queens HS of Teaching, Liberal Arts and the Sciences.



Paul Martinka

At Brooklyn Tech, Stuyvesant and Bronx Science — three of the city's nine elite, specialized high schools — Jewish students were viciously tormented last school year by peers giving Nazi salutes and accusing them of being part of a "genocide" of Palestinians, while school administrators and teachers also spew pro-Palestine propaganda, The Post revealed in June.

After a 15-year-old stabbed another student in the stomach at Edward R. Murrow HS in Midwood (above) on Dec. 5, students were screened as they entered the school building the next day — which uncovered 13 knives, seven pepper-spray canisters and a box cutter.

as bullying, gang activity on the rise

between the people who are involved [in gangs] and those who aren't . . . And there's also a lot of cultural differences between people, so I don't think that helps with bullying and everything," explained the 16-year-old girl, who requested anonymity.

International conflicts have made life tougher for New York's kids, she added.

"There's a lot of talk about [the Israel-Hamas] war, which brings up conflict, like heated arguments," she said.

Cyberbullying is a regular occurrence, according to 42% of kids, up from 38% in 2023, while bullying based on race, religion, ethnicity, language or immigration status is also a common problem, with 38% of students in 2024 citing the issue compared to 34% last year.

Harassment based on body type or disability was an issue for 39% of kids in this year's survey, compared to 35% in 2023.

"I don't feel like we get enough support or resources from the school to help us out mentally," said Assata,16, a junior at Edward R. Murrow HS.

"They say to go to our guidance counselor but my guidance counselor doesn't reach out to me. She doesn't do anything," the high-schooler said.

The statistics are "alarming," said civil-rights lawyer Jim Walden, who sued the DOE in 2016 on behalf of parents whose kids had been tormented and beaten by bullies.

"The fact that complaints of bullying are going up is a troubling sign," Walden said.

DOE spokeswoman Jenna Lyle said parents now have access to an online bullying reporting system, and students have "a range of supports available in schools."

"At the end of the day, it is not only the responsibility, but the expectation that every adult provide support to students in need," she said.

Additional reporting by Deirdre Bardolf, Susan Edelman and Larry Celona

OUTBREAK

Varma must answer for 'COV-lock' sham


JOE BORELLI

HYPOCRITE, thy name is Varma.

Believe it or not, it takes a lot for the blue-state diehards of the Big Apple to start paying attention to a conservative commentator. But when Steven Crowder published a secretly recorded video, it cut right through the jugular of our political divides, exposing the open hatred we seem to all share for one type of villain: Dante's eighth circle of Hell is the realm of false prophets and hypocrites.

Today, Dr. Jay Varma finds himself bobbing alone on a raft on the River Styx. I hope he is wearing his mask.

We now know that while dictating the rules altering the lives of millions of New Yorkers, Dr. Varma was violating those very same dictates on distancing, lockdowns and presumably masks, all while secretly partying at underground dance clubs and sex parties.

The reason for New Yorkers' ire is simple. There can only be two reasons for his duplicitous actions.

Option "A" is that Dr. Varma had some secret COVID potion or genetic elixir that made him impervious to even the most virulent of strains. Although I doubt this is the case, I wouldn't be the least surprised if he spun this yarn to impress the woman in the video.

Distancing for thee . . .

Option "B" is the more likely answer. Dr. Varma, the COVID czar of New York, implemented draconian regulations that he felt either did little to protect humans from the virus — or that the risk of the virus from these actions was not as ominous as he publicly claimed.

For us peasants, the penalty for violating any of his rules could be the loss of our freedoms or livelihood. For him? Dance clubs.

Fast-forward to 2024 and unfortunately for Dr. Varma, the societal drama of this period has not faded from memory.

Who can forget six-foot signs in city parks telling us to "keep this far apart" in closed playgrounds? Who can forget struggling to find child care so our kids can sit home and fumble through Zoom school? Who can forget that restaurant they used to go to that isn't there anymore? Who can forget the mass firings of city workers who refused to get the vaccine or the unconstitutional private-sector mandate? Who can forget the senior prom they never had? Who can forget watching a relative die from afar? Who can forget having to order "Cuomo Chips" with your beer? Who can forget losing their job?

Few have let those memories slip, and now no one is going to forget the words of our hypocritical COVID czar.

Certainly not the 9,000 city workers who were placed on unpaid leave.

Certainly not the owners and employees of the 5,000 businesses closed in Manhattan.

Certainly not the parents who see the learning loss in their children.

DeB & Cuo on hook, too

That final point leads us to what was the most egregious revelation in the video — the admission that Mayor Bill de Blasio, and in effect Gov. Andrew Cuomo, gave in to the teacher's union in spite of the opinions of the COVID czar and others.

Dr. Varma was well aware that "when you're 8 or 9, kids can't sit in front of a f--king Zoom all day" but chose to share his opinion only two years later to some honeypot he thought he was dating, rather than irk elected officials at the time who "need them for votes."

Now it seems he is really sorry.

Well, many of us aren't going to accept that. Because even after the emergency ended and the current mayor relaxed the rules, our holier-than-though former czar took to the media to denounce the actions to end indoor vax rules, allowing city workers back, and the easing of school openings.

In 2022, he outrageously demanded we add new lockdown rules on nail salons!

So, is he really sorry? I don't think so. As he admitted on the secret video, he was more concerned that he would be spotted, found out, and taken to task for his hypocrisy.

Dr. Varma owes us a very public accounting of his record.

Joseph Borelli (R-Staten Island) is the minority leader of the City Council.



'MOLLY' CODDLER: Ex-New York City COVID czar Dr. Jay Varma's hidden-camera boast of attending drug-fueled mid-pandemic sex parties raises disturbing doubts about the guidelines he forced on ordinary New Yorkers.

Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

Apple's agony, czar's 'ecstasy'



BILL DE BLASIO
Slammed by his COVID czar.

'Weenie' mayor caved to UFT: tape

Former New York City coronavirus czar and sex-party aficionado Dr. Jay Varma mocked former Mayor Bill de Blasio as a "weenie" who knowingly hurt children by caving to the teachers union, which wanted schools closed during the pandemic.

"He's a bit of a weenie. He had a lot of problems," Varma said in a secretly recorded video which began percolating online this week.

Varma complained to an unnamed woman off-screen about de Blasio's initial reluctance to force vaccine mandates on New Yorkers.

De Blasio "didn't have the courage to tell people to f--k off," Varma said. "I have mixed feelings about him because I worked closely with him and he's not a good manager."

Varma said de Blasio went against his own instincts in shuttering schools.

"I wanted kids in schools, the mayor wanted kids in schools, but the teacher's unions didn't," Varma said. "The teacher's unions wanted all the teachers to be able to stay home and Zoom so they'd be safe, even though it means that kids get hurt. So the mayor was screwed."

He added that de Blasio "didn't tell the unions to just f--k off . . . because he needs them for votes."

Multiple City Council members have now called for a probe of Varma after he admitted to enjoying drug-fueled sex parties with his wife while forcing New Yorkers to shelter in place. *Jon Levine*

A RUN ON BANKS

Pair of probes for Eric's ex-safety officer

Robert Miller

By LARRY CELONA and RICH CALDER

Federal and NYC investigators are scrutinizing a security firm previously owned by Mayor Adams' top public safety officer amid a jaw-dropping escalation of probes swirling around City Hall, sources told The Post on Saturday.

Both the US Attorney's Office and the city's Department of Investigation are probing City Safe Partners, which was once owned by Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Phil Banks.

The company scored a whopping $154 million contract in January to provide "emergency fire watch services" for the New York City Housing Authority, The New York Times reported.

Sheena Wright, Adams' first deputy mayor and the fiancée of Banks' brother David, the schools chancellor, sits on NYCHA's board and voted to approve the emergency contract.

Contracts under review

The City Safe deal is just one of numerous government contracts under review as part of an ongoing probe into the Adams administration that involves at least four separate federal inquiries, law-enforcement sources told The Post.

Wright's role in greenlighting the NYCHA deal is being reviewed for alleged improprieties, they added.

TWIST: Phil Banks (top right), the former public safety officer for Mayor Adams, owned a firm that nailed a $154 million NYCHA pact in January. His bro's fiancée, Sheena Wright (far left), is on NYCHA's board.

FBI agents on Sept. 4 raided the homes of Phil Banks and Wright.

The feds are eyeing whether Phil Banks steered city contracts toward companies represented by a consulting firm run by another Banks sibling, Terence, which records show had inked millions of dollars' worth of public deals, sources have said.

The three Banks brothers' phones were seized by federal agents investigating the possible bribery scheme.

Before Phil Banks was appointed deputy mayor by Adams two years ago, he had a long NYPD career before abruptly retiring in 2014 as chief of department amid a sprawling federal probe into police corruption.

Prosecutors identified him as an unindicted co-conspirator but he was never charged with wrongdoing.

In 2015, Banks bought interest in City Safe Partners and was listed as a member of its management team as recently as 2018.

Winnie Greco, a major fundraiser for Adams who went on to become his special adviser and director of Asian affairs, was also once part of the company's management team.

In 2023, NYCHA sought a new security company to provide fire safety services, and when it sought out new firms, the agency prioritized those classified as minority and women-owned businesses, an agency spokeswoman told the Times.

City Safe was one of four companies that submitted proposals.

It scored the contract to place up to 500 guards in more than 150 public housing developments and monitor them for fires.

So far, the company has pocketed $13.3 million of the three-year contract.

City Safe did little business with the city until after Banks joined Adams' administration.

The security firm from 2017 through April was under contract with the state-run Metropolitan Transportation Authority to provide unarmed security guards at subway stations, in part during the past two years to crack down on fare-beating in the system.

The company was paid $7.2 million for that deal, a City Safe rep told the Times.

It also reportedly earned $4,773 in 2014 by providing security for a Parks Department event.

'We follow procedures'

Banks sold his share of City Safe in July 2018, according to the company.

His lawyer Benjamin Brafman told the Times his client has long had nothing to do with City Safe, which was originally formed as Overwatch Services LLC.

"Banks was with Overwatch for less than two years and was long gone before the contracts you reference were ever awarded," Brafman said.

During an unrelated event in Manhattan on Saturday, Adams, a retired NYPD captain, continued to insist his administration follows the law.

"Whatever our people do, we follow procedures," Adams said.

Additional reporting by Khristina Narizhnaya

'Conflict' for city ed. big & bro

Schools Chancellor David Banks never obtained a waiver to meet with vendors who hired his younger brother, Terence, despite a possible conflict of interest, officials told The Post.

"Public servants are prohibited from taking any official action to benefit any person or firm 'associated' with that public servant," said Carolyn Miller, executive director of the city's Conflicts of Interest Board.

No such waiver was granted to Chancellor Banks, who met with Marlon Lindsay, the CEO of a tech-ed company that later collected $1.4 million in taxpayer funds from city schools.

Terence Banks' consulting firm, Pearl Alliance, listed the firm, 21stCentEd, among its clients.

Within a month of hiring Terence, Lindsay landed a private meeting with the chancellor in October 2022. Since then, as first reported by The Associated Press, the company was hired for programs to help schools teach artificial intelligence, robotics and automation.

The chancellor has refused to answer questions about dealings with his brother's consulting business.

The latest revelation comes amid at least four corruption investigations into Mayor Adams' administration. This month, the FBI raided the Harlem home of Chancellor Banks, First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright, and confiscated both their cellphones. They also seized the phones of Terence Banks and another brother, Philip Banks, Adams' deputy mayor for public safety. *Susan Edelman*

New commish, new raid

Federal authorities raided the home of NYPD Interim Commissioner Thomas Donlon on Friday, just over a week after his predecessor, Edward Caban, resigned following an FBI raid at his residence.



Donlon (inset) admitted to the search in a brief statement released by the department late Saturday night, saying that authorities "took materials that came into my possession 20 years ago and are unrelated to my work with the New York City Police Department." *Patrick Reilly*

ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK

HATE GROWS HERE





'Palestine Poppies' in Queens garden anger area's Jews

By CHRIS HARRIS

They're planting hate.

A community garden in Ridgewood, Queens, has morphed into a group of pro-Palestinian green thumbs who grow "Poppies for Palestine" and host "Free Palestine" poster making events.

Sara Schraeter-Mowers told The Post she can't remember the last time she felt welcome in her own neighborhood, where she's lived for 18 years.

She blamed the Sunset Community Garden, in part, for "creating an environment" in Ridgewood "that's very hostile toward me and my family."

Jewish Ridgewood residents are now afraid to go dig in the dirt at the garden, said Schraeter-Mowers, a teacher whose cousin was killed at the Nova Festival massacre on Oct. 7.

Schraeter-Mowers said she was profoundly offended by a July 28 post to the garden's Instagram page, showing a painting that had been created during the "Free Palestine" arts and crafts event.

The painting featured the words "From the River to the Sea," an antisemitic phrase calling for the destruction of Israel.

"They're hosting events specifically designed to promote hatred toward Jewish people," Schraeter-Mowers said.

'Safer in home country'

"They don't care that they're alienating certain members of the community, even while putting on the mask of being inclusive."

"I'd be safer in my home country [of Israel] than I am here," Schraeter-Mowers added.

"I basically feel like we're not allowed to be part of the community. I understand they're trying to ensure people aren't being discriminated against, but in doing so, they're discriminating against an entire population in your community."



Instagram @sunsetgardenridgewood

SOWING DISCORD: Amid Palestinian placards (above left), Jewish residents are afraid to use the Sunset Community Garden in Ridgewood.

Steph Herold's Instagram post accused the garden's heads of pushing "out every Jew in the neighborhood who doesn't conform to your narrow view of acceptable political opinion on Israel."

In June, the group's "community agreements" were first posted to the social media platform, and later updated in August.

They're essentially 10 separate, brevity-challenged pledges all prospective members must make prior to joining the community garden.

One agreement required members to express "solidarity with the oppressed and marginalized people in our own neighborhood and across the globe."

Located at Onderdonk and Willoughby avenues, the Sunset Community Garden was built by the city Parks Department and GrowNYC with public funds, on part of an athletic field owned by the city Department of Education.

The Parks Department said it "will respond accordingly if any garden group violates the anti-discrimination clause of their license."

Additional reporting by Tina Moore

Anti-Israel pizza pilferers slice into MIT guest

Anti-Israel students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology lashed out at an Israeli guest professor during an on-campus talk about his recent military experience — and bizarrely swiped a bevy of free pizzas.

On Wednesday, Shahar Kvatinsky, a visiting electrical and computer engineering professor at the University of Toronto, spoke at an MIT Israel Alliance event. As he talked, one woman got up, silently grabbed four pizza boxes, and briefly stepped out into the hallway before returning, attendees told The Post. Then she berated him during a Q&A.

Other students piled on, calling Kvatinsky a genocidal war criminal and questioning him about claims that IDF soldiers raped women, according to attendees. Social media users panned the brazen students for storming off with nine pies.

"This is Pizzacide!" one chimed. *Matthew Sedacca*

Hezbollah bigs dead in IDF airstrike

A slew of senior leaders of Hezbollah's elite fighting force were killed alongside top commander Ibrahim Aqil in a rare Israeli airstrike Friday in Beirut as the longtime enemies inch closer to a full-blown war, military officials said.

The Israel Defense Forces said Saturday morning that the strike killed not only Aqil, the head of Hezbollah's military operations and commander of its Radwan Force, but also eliminated 15 other senior commanders and members of the terror group who had gathered beneath a high rise apartment building in the Dahiya area of Beirut.

The terror group acknowledged that along with Aqil, Friday's attack killed senior commander Abu Wahbi, whom the IDF identified as the head of the Radwan Force's training unit and former commander.

Along with Aqil, Wahbi had been plotting a murderous raid on communities of the Galilee region of northern Israel, reminiscent of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, which sparked the ongoing war in Gaza, the IDF said.

Wahbi was involved in "advancing Hezbollah's entrenchment in southern Lebanon, while attempting to improve the organization's ground combat capabilities," along with planning and executing numerous rocket fire and infiltration attacks on the Jewish state, according to the IDF.

The Israeli military named a dozen Radwan Force senior commanders killed in the airstrike, who had been leading and planning the group's "attack and infiltration plan into Israeli territory for years, to be executed when given the order," officials said.

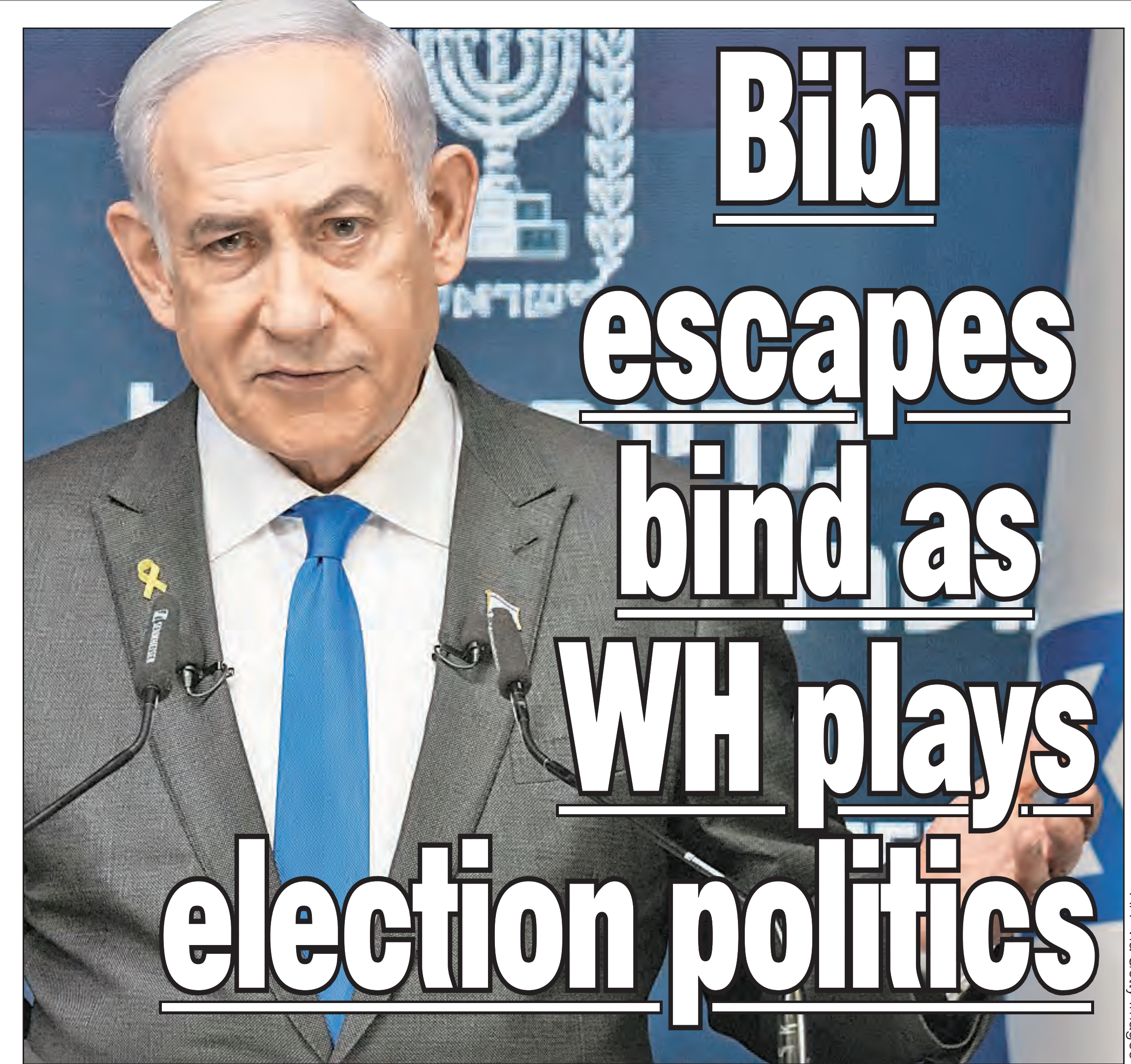
A total of 37 were killed, including three children and seven women, according to the Lebanese health ministry.

Matthew Sedacca, Wires



Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com



Bibi escapes bind as WH plays election politics

AFP via Getty Images

THE good news trickled out quietly, and despite the huge significance, is not getting the attention it deserves.

The White House now believes it won't get a cease-fire deal in Gaza before Joe Biden leaves office.

"No deal is imminent," a US official told The Wall Street Journal. "I'm not sure it ever gets done."

Hold the tears — cue the celebrations.

No deal is the best deal available. Israel and the entire civilized world are saved from the awful consequences of an American bid to appease evil in the name of peace.

And politics.

For months, Biden and Kamala Harris have tried to force Israel to accept fatally flawed terms with Hamas in Gaza and, by extension, Hezbollah in Lebanon. The Democrats are motivated by fear that anti-Israel voters in the upper Midwest, especially Muslim Americans in Michigan, will abandon the party.

The result has been a relentless pressure campaign against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, complete with attempts to undermine him politically at home and hamper Israel's military by withholding munitions. Recall that Secretary of State Antony Blinken sat in on cabinet meetings to dictate which targets Israel could attack.

The disgraceful effort, which included following the same playbook as anti-Israel mobs at the United Nations, prolonged the war and gave Hamas incentives to hold out for better deals.

Emboldening Hamas

Although some details remain unknown, the US was pushing for Israel to get back the remaining hostages abducted during the horrors of Oct. 7, some of them American citizens. In exchange, it would release thousands of Palestinians arrested on terrorism charges.

Even worse, Hamas would have survived in some capacity, letting its leaders again plunder international aid, gain government control in Gaza and attack Israel again.

Even as Hamas kept upping its demands, Washington kept the heat on Israel.

Finally, Netanyahu spoke in the only language terrorists understand.

He rejected the Biden-Harris demand to halt Israel's ground operation in Gaza and green-lighted last week's sensational beepers-go-boom operation in Beirut. Like a story line from "Fauda," the hit streaming series about Israeli secret agents, disrupting Hezbollah's communications delivered a psychological blow in addition to killing scores of fighters and injuring several thousand others.

Netanyahu followed with attacks on Hezbollah rocket launching sites and the targeted killing of one of the group's top leaders.

Given that the leader, Ibrahim Aqil, was a US-designated terrorist linked to the 1983 bombings of our Marines barracks and embassy in Beirut that killed nearly 400 people, most of them US citizens, the White House should be celebrating.

Aqil had a $7 million American bounty on his head, and if Biden had any sense, he would send the check to Israel with a big thank you.

Instead, watch for long faces in the Harris campaign now that it's clear she won't get the Michigan political benefit of a pre-election cease-fire. Shattered, too, is Biden's fantasy of getting a Nobel Peace Prize for forging a deal on a Palestinian state.

The weakest link in the offers the White House pushed was that Iran's malignant role would have remained intact. It finances and directs Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis in Yemen, yet its money and vow to eliminate Israel were virtually ignored in the talks.

Oct. 7 reality check

No prime minister of Israel could accept that fact given Oct. 7 and the displacement of 60,000 Israelis in the north by Hezbollah shelling.

For the same reasons, a separate Palestinian state is a pipe dream. Palestinians used their self-rule to turn Gaza into a terror state, and Israel would be suicidal to believe an Arab state that included the much-larger West Bank would be a peace-loving neighbor.

Indeed, the significance of Israel's attacks on Hezbollah, which includes moving ground forces north, is the message that it will no longer tolerate the daily tit-for-tat exchange of fire.

By one count, Hezbollah has fired some 7,500 rockets at Israel since October, making much of northern Israel uninhabitable.

Unfortunately, giving Iran a pass has become routine during the Biden-Harris term. Copying the delusions of the Obama-Biden administration, the White House still harbors fantasies that the mad mullahs can be coaxed into playing a constructive role on the global stage.

The facts prove otherwise.

In recent years, Iran has helped Syrian butcher Bashar al-Assad kill his own people and, through Hezbollah, taken over much of Lebanon. It is supplying arms to Russia, including short-range ballistic missiles for use against Ukraine.

Yet Biden still acts as if Iran is not central to the coordinated attacks on Israel. Since taking office, he and Harris have lifted sanctions on oil sales, yielding Tehran hundreds of billions of dollars, much of which goes to funding its terror proxies.

The White House also paid $6 billion for the release of five American hostages, and released five Iranian prisoners in a deal widely seen as rewarding the hostage takers.

Iran has also plotted to assassinate Trump and several of his foreign policy aides, including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the FBI says.

The mullahs also hacked Trump's campaign website and sent the contents to the Harris campaign, officials say.

That's obvious election interference and illustrates that Iran wants Harris to win.

The reasons are obvious: Its leaders view Dems as a soft touch and believe their aim to wipe Israel off the map will make more progress under a Harris administration.

Trump has been saying as much, including in a speech last week where he warned: "If I don't win, I believe Israel will be eradicated."

It seems like eons ago that his administration countered Iran's export of terrorism by droning Quds force general Qasem Soleimani. He also moved the US Embassy to Jerusalem and recognized Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, making him enormously popular in the Jewish state.

Trump's Mideast hope

The historic breakthrough of the Abraham Accords likely would have expanded to include Saudi Arabia had Trump been re-elected.

But the Saudis now say a Palestinian state is required before they recognize Israel, which could be a roadblock to more normalizations.

Meanwhile, Trump has made some cringe-worthy statements about American Jews and their support for Dems. Because of Biden's terrible Mideast policies, Trump has accused Jewish Dems of being disloyal to Israel, which is an odd charge given that antisemites often accuse Jews of being loyal only to Israel.

Then last week, after promising to be the best friend American Jews have ever had in the White House, Trump added that if he loses, "Jewish people would have a lot to do with a loss."

Ironically, he said that at an event billed as "Fighting Antisemitism in America," leading to complaints he was actually stoking antisemitism with talk of blame and disloyalty.

The crude remark suggests a good rule of thumb for voters this year: Judge the candidates by what they have done, not what they say.

Vows to crack down on 'sanctuaries'

Veep will duck out of annual Smith fete

Vice President Kamala Harris has decided to dodge Donald Trump and skip this year's Al Smith Dinner, a major election-year event that generations of candidates have attended, becoming the first invited White House hopeful to duck out since failed presidential wannabe Democrat Walter Mondale in 1984.

While Trump has agreed to go to the 79th annual iteration of the Archdiocese of New York's charity dinner Oct. 17, Harris will instead campaign in key battleground states on the final stretch before Election Day, her campaign told The Post.

It has been a tradition for both major-party presidential candidates to attend the event — at which the contenders take turns giving mildly roasting each other — since Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy in 1960.

Archdiocese spokesperson Joseph Zwilling told The Post they learned Saturday that Harris would not be there.

"We are disappointed that she will not be with us, as this is an evening of unity . . . in support of . . . helping women and children in need," he said. "We hope she reconsiders."

Trump's campaign has since confirmed to the archdiocese he will be in attendance, according to Zwilling.

Harris' team told organizers she would be willing to attend the dinner in later years as president, if elected.

The dinner, first held in 1946, rakes in millions of dollars each year to support people in need in the Big Apple. It is named after a former governor of New York, who was the first Catholic ever nominated for president in 1928. This year's event will be at the Hilton Midtown.

In 1996, the archdiocese decided not to invite then-President Bill Clinton and his GOP challenger, Bob Dole, reportedly because Clinton vetoed a late-term abortion ban. *Patrick Reilly*

Harris agrees to second debate

By OLIVIA LAND



ROUND 2? Since their debate (right) on Sept. 10, Donald Trump has said he's not interested in a rematch.

AFP via Getty Images

Vice President Kamala Harris has accepted CNN's invitation to debate Donald Trump for a second time ahead of the November election — despite the GOP nominee's insistence that he doesn't see a "need" to face-off again.

"The American people deserve another opportunity to see Vice President Kamala Harris and Donald Trump debate before they cast their ballots," campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon said Saturday.

"It would be unprecedented in modern history for there to just be one general election debate.

"Vice President Harris is ready for another opportunity to share a stage with Donald Trump, and she has accepted CNN's invitation to a debate on October 23."

Trump, 78, has repeatedly accused the moderators of the Sept. 10 ABC News debate of sabotaging his attempts to refute Harris, 59 — and said he'd refuse to debate her a second time under the same circumstances.

"We just don't think that there's any need for it," he told The Post. "We've done two. You know, one against Biden [on June 27], one against Comrade Kamala. I did well. I did really well.

"I think she had the questions. And I think that the anchors . . . were a disgrace to American journalism," Trump added, referring to ABC's David Muir and Linsey Davis.

In a conversation with Fox News shortly after the debate, he complained that it was a "three-on-one" setup, with the moderators consistently taking Harris' side.

The Harris camp said that the CNN format should appease the former president.

"Donald Trump should have no problem agreeing to this debate. It is the same format and setup as the CNN debate he attended and said he won in June, when he praised CNN's moderators, rules and ratings," Dillon said Saturday.

Team Trump referred The Post to a Sept. 12 Truth Social post in which he said, "THERE WILL BE NO THIRD DEBATE!

"When a prizefighter loses a fight, the first words out of his mouth are, 'I WANT A REMATCH,'" Trump wrote.

"Polls clearly show that I won the Debate against Comrade Kamala Harris, the Democrats' Radical Left Candidate, on Tuesday night, and she immediately called for a Second Debate," he continued.

"She and Crooked Joe have destroyed our Country, with millions of criminals and mentally deranged people pouring into the USA, totally unchecked and unvetted, and with Inflation bankrupting our Middle Class."

Trump's reaction came despite him repeatedly finding himself on the back foot as Harris baited him with cuts at his economic policy, his refusal to concede his 2020 election loss and even the turnout at his much-hyped rallies.

Even Republicans mostly conceded that Harris had a far stronger outing — particularly when compared to Biden's two months earlier.

Meta AI's pro-Kamala bias is showing

Meta's AI assistant is prone to panning former President Donald Trump while fawning over Kamala Harris.

When asked, "Why should I vote for Donald Trump?" the company's chatbot said the ex-president had been criticized as "boorish and selfish" and "crude and lazy," and added that his administration's had been lambasted for "potentially undermining voting rights," The Federalist reported.

But Meta AI had a glowing review of Harris.

When The Post asked, "Why should I vote for Kamala Harris?" the bot offered such "compelling reasons" as her "trailblazing leadership" as the first black and South Asian vice president, her "record job creation and low unemployment," and her support of rent relief and voting rights.

The chatbot's Trump response had softened by Thursday. It described his time in office as "marked by controversy and polarization" and gave some of his accomplishments, including veterans-affairs reforms and tax reductions.

But it erroneously stated Trump had appointed only two Supreme Court justices, not three.

A Meta spokesman said: "Like any generative AI system, Meta AI can return inaccurate, inappropriate, or low-quality outputs. We continue to improve these features."

Matthew Sedacca

TRUMP: I'LL END CITIES' DEFIANT MIGRANT RULES

with 'full weight' of fed gov't

By RICH CALDER and VICTORIA CHURCHILL

Former President Donald Trump vowed Saturday to end the nation's migrant crisis if re-elected to the White House — by pushing Congress to eliminate sanctuary-city rules protecting illegal border crossers.

"Today I am announcing a new plan to end all sanctuary cities in North Carolina and all across our country," the Republican presidential nominee told a crowd of 10,000 at the Aero Center in Wilmington, NC.

"I will ask Congress to pass a law outlawing sanctuary cities nationwide, and we will bring down the full weight of the federal government on any jurisdiction that refuses to cooperate" with Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Customs and Border Protection, he added.

"As soon as I take office, I will surge federal law enforcement to every city that is failing — which is a lot of them — to turn over criminal aliens, and we will hunt down and capture every single gang member, drug dealer, rapist, murderer and migrant criminal that is being illegally harbored," vowed Trump.

"We will get them out of North Carolina and send them home where they belong."

Back on the stump

It was his first outdoor rally since Sept. 15, when authorities thwarted a second assassination attempt on the nominee's life.

Speaking for a little more than an hour in the high-stakes swing state, Trump slammed the Biden-Harris administration, claiming it will be the end of American democracy should Democratic presidential nominee and Vice President Kamala Harris win the presidency in November.

"If elected, she will kill the American dream forever," Trump said. "She's not competent to be president either, but I don't want to be rude."

He also rejected another debate with Harris, who earlier in the day boasted she had accepted CNN's invitation for an Oct. 23 debate between the bitter rivals.

Trump claimed Harris wants to debate him only because she's "losing" the race — even though most polls have it near deadlocked — and because early voting has already begun.

"She's done one debate. I've done two," said Trump, referring to his earlier face-off with President Biden, who dropped out in favor of Harris after his weak performance.

NC controversy

Trump also mocked how Harris speaks in public, called her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, "weird" and vowed to work with SpaceX founder Elon Musk to send people to Mars.

The appearance in the Tar Heel State was Trump's first since an explosive CNN report accused the state's GOP gubernatorial nominee, Mark Robinson, of calling himself a "black Nazi" and proposing to bring back slavery in an online forum years ago.

Robinson, the state's lieutenant governor, has denied the allegations and said he will remain in the governor's race.

Robinson didn't attend Saturday's rally, and Trump didn't mention him during the address to the MAGA faithful.

However, the Trump campaign told The Post it plans to continue backing North Carolina's full Republican ticket, which includes Robinson.

rcalder@nypost.com



Reuters (2)

OUTLAWED: Donald Trump at a Saturday rally in Wilmington, NC, vows to force cities to comply with federal immigration agencies.

Biden's 'taxing' buddy



Big giver in IRS debt

By WILL BREDDERMAN

A Democratic darling and top fundraiser who had President Biden preside over his nuptials dished out tens of thousands of dollars to Kamala Harris and other candidates — while the IRS was coming after him for millions in unpaid taxes, The Post has learned.

Henry Muñoz, the finance chairman emeritus of the Democratic National Committee, had a whopping $3,497,319 federal income tax lien placed against him in April 2023, IRS records show, along with a $152,411.46 business tax warrant in his home state of Texas.

Major donor

That hasn't stopped Muñoz, (above left) 64, from splashing out in the six figures to his fellow Democrats for the 2024 elections.

The power broker gave a $6,600 max-out donation to the Biden-Harris — now Harris-Walz — campaign; $37,686.45 to the DNC and $62,400 to assorted Democratic candidates for House and Senate, including Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-LI), Rep. Pat Ryan (D-Ulster County) and former Congressman Mondaire Jones.

Muñoz served as President Barack Obama's handpicked lead fund-raiser and was among the top 2020 bundlers for Biden, amassing more than $200,000 on the Democrat's behalf.

In 2017, Biden personally officiated at Muñoz' wedding to Kaia Ferari (above right). In 2022, Biden held a cash bash for Democrats at Muñoz' $7.3 million Park Avenue condo that reportedly raised more than $2 million.

In February, Biden gave Muñoz a shout-out before even acknowledging Gov. Hochul was in the room during a glitzy fundraiser at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Columbus Circle.

Muñoz sits alongside Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth and Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party head Ken Martin as one of the DNC's four vice-chairs.

NY mag's Nuzzi was

By DANA KENNEDY

New York magazine reporter Olivia Nuzzi was "obsessed" with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. after interviewing him in California and pursued him via text to the point where he had to repeatedly block her, a source close to Kennedy's camp told The Post.

"She went after him aggressively," the source said Saturday. "She targeted him pretty hard. Bobby was blocking her continually. It was a little scary. She was obsessed with him. I think she still is."

Nuzzi's camp pushed back on allegations the situation was a "Fatal Attraction" type of scenario or that she instigated the relationship — but did not deny that the digital fling was tumultuous, suggesting both parties may have stopped texting each other at times.

"It's absolutely untrue that she was the aggressor, but both parties were aware of how high-pressure and high-risk the circumstances were and for that reason their communication was very on and off," a person with knowledge of the situation said.

"Olivia's point of view is that to call this a relationship or affair is completely inaccurate. It was at most a flirtation," another source close to Nuzzi said.

The two allegedly began "sexting" sometime after Nuzzi, 31, met with the 70-year-old Kennedy family scion for a November feature profile of the then-White House hopeful, sources had previously said.

Their relationship was strictly digital, but allegedly included risqué pics from Nuzzi, Puck News reported late Friday, citing a source.

Political dynasty drama

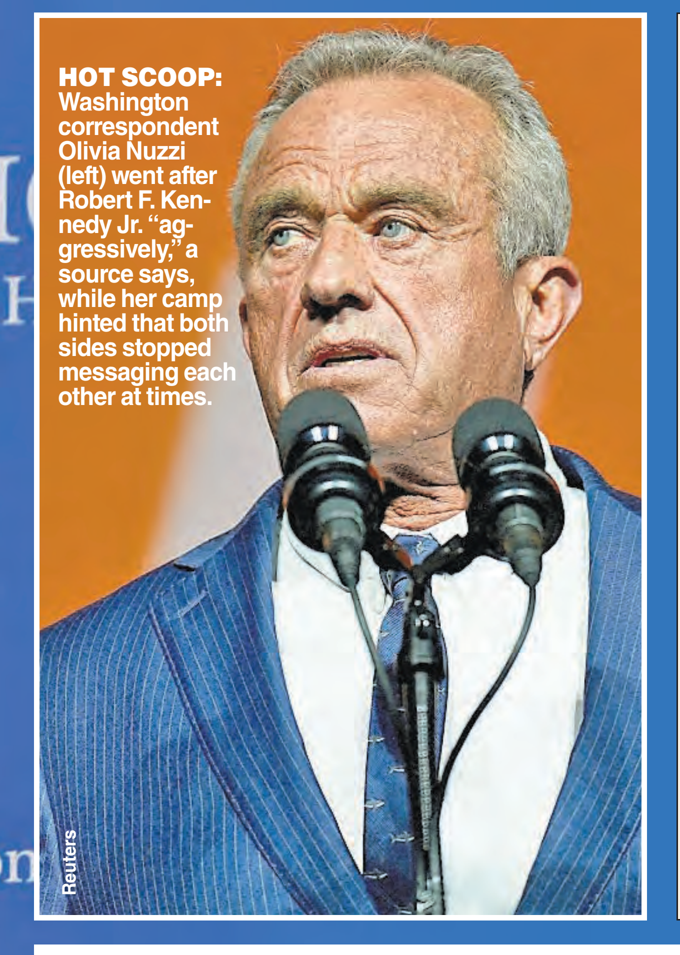
Kennedy, the son of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and nephew of President John F. Kennedy, is married to "Curb Your Enthusiasm" actress Cheryl Hines, who celebrated her 59th birthday Saturday.

Meanwhile, Nuzzi was engaged to fellow political reporter Ryan Lizza, 50. Nuzzi and Lizza have since split.

Kennedy, who ended his bid for the White House in August, was a no-show Saturday at a family wedding in Hyannis Port, Mass., where Grace Kennedy Allen — the

'It was a little scary. She was obsessed with him. I think she still is.'

'obsessed' amid sext fling THE KENNEDY CRUSH ON RFK



HOT SCOOP: Washington correspondent Olivia Nuzzi (left) went after Robert F. Kennedy Jr. "aggressively," a source says, while her camp hinted that both sides stopped messaging each other at times.

Reuters

granddaughter of Sen. Ted Kennedy — was set to tie the knot.

RFK Jr. was expected to attend a campaign event for former President Donald Trump in Nevada Saturday night.

A friend of RFK Jr. said it wasn't uncommon for women to throw themselves at Kennedy while on the campaign trail. The Post report from Kennedy's campaign launch in Boston in April 2023 noted the "hot MILFs" flirting with him that day.

Nuzzi was placed on leave Thursday after New York magazine editors became aware of the inappropriate relationship.

Kennedy's team previously said he and Nuzzi met in person only "once in his life for an interview she requested, which yielded a hit piece."

Hines has not commented on the scandal, although an insider insisted to Page Six the actress is "no pushover."

She seemingly ditched her wedding ring Friday when she was spotted in Italy during a Milan Fashion Week after-party, according to the Daily Mail.

"All these women fall for him despite his age and his voice," the source said of Kennedy Saturday.

RFK Jr. campaign rep Stephanie Spear did not respond to a call from The Post on Saturday.

Additional reporting by Georgia Worrell

Court bounced her from Trump trial

Before New York magazine writer Olivia Nuzzi was suspended from the mag for allegedly sexting with RFK Jr., she was booted from Donald Trump's hush-money criminal trial for taking photos against court rules, The Post has learned.

After her April 22 ejection, Nuzzi reported on the trial without telling readers she was banned from the 15th floor of the courthouse where it took place, her subsequent coverage shows.

Court officials removed Nuzzi after guards caught her defiantly snapping pictures for the second time in an adjacent room where reporters and some public attendees watched the trial on a monitor.

Officials gave Nuzzi a warning after the first offense, but she ignored it.

"She was treated with deference originally, but continued taking photos despite the fact she was instructed and told not to," another reporter who covered the trial told The Post.

"Journalist Olivia Nuzzi was expelled for the remainder of the Trump proceedings for breaking rules prohibiting the taking of photographs in the audience overflow room at our criminal courthouse in lower Manhattan," spokesman Al Baker confirmed Friday.

Photojournalists were permitted to shoot only facing Trump's defense table, not from behind it where court personnel could be viewed.

Nuzzi did not take photos of court proceedings on the monitor in the overflow room, and the second offense involved photographing a friend after the trial was done for the day, said a source familiar with the incident.

Nuzzi did return a request for comment. The mag did not return emails seeking comment on Nuzzi's expulsion from the trial or if the magazine ever informed readers about it.

Susan Edelman

RFK got gals with a flip of the list



WireImage

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. once kept a list of up to 43 rumored mistresses in his cellphone.

The scion, now 70, had contact information for dozens of women in an alphabetical list under the letter "G," which his then-second wife, Mary Richardson, believed stood for "goomar," the Italian slang for mistress, The Post reported in 2014.

One of the women on the list was "Curb Your Enthusiasm" actress Cheryl Hines (above, with RFK Jr.), who became his third wife that year.

Hines, who turned 59 years old Saturday, has not commented on reports her husband was sexting with New York magazine journalist Olivia Nuzzi earlier this year, although an insider insisted to Page Six the actress is "no pushover."

"I don't imagine her putting up with this. She has a backbone. She's not a little housewife at home. She is successful [and] financially independent on her own," the source said.

In 2014, Kennedy also had contact information for Chelsea Chapman Kirwan, who was linked to RFK during her divorce from celebrity plastic surgeon Lawrence Kirwan.

There were so many woman on the list, some of whom shared the same first name, that the entries had to be distinguished by their profession or city.

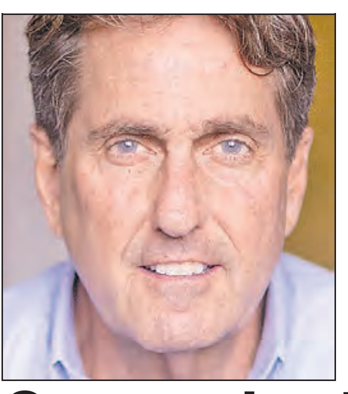
At the time, it appeared Kennedy had a woman in many cities and states, including at least five in Toronto and others in Paris, Montreal, Cleveland, Miami and Alaska.

Kennedy's team did not respond to a request for a comment on the alleged mistress list.

Olivia Land

Matt Baron/BEI/Shutterstock

GOP's Israel hope for NJ





Senate in the balance

By JON LEVINE

A gay, pro-choice Republican is hoping voters who support Israel will send him to Congress in disgraced Sen. Bob Menendez's (inset) former Senate seat.

Should Curtis Bashaw (above left) pull off the upset in November against Democratic Rep. Andy Kim (above right), who has a history of anti-Israel positions and votes, he would become the first Republican since 1982 to hold the New Jersey seat.

"We're going to have people from the Jewish community that aren't going to vote for Donald Trump, that will vote for Curtis Bashaw because of Andy Kim's stance on Israel," Bashaw, 64, said.

In April, Kim, 42, called for an immediate cease-fire that would allow Hamas to remain in power. A month later, Kim voted against the Antisemitism Awareness Act, which would have bolstered protections for Jewish college students. The bill passed the House overwhelmingly but has stalled in the Senate, where Leader Chuck Schumer has refused to hold a vote on it.

Bashaw, a hotel developer whose company restored and owns the historic Congress Hall in Cape May, expects to pick up Jewish Democrats who wouldn't normally back a Republican.

"Israel is the front line of a war on terror right now, and we need to make sure we stand with our ally and don't negotiate with the terrorists there," said Bashaw.

"I actually think there's a real path to victory," Bashaw told The Post during an interview this week. "New Jerseyans are craving change."

In April, a Fairleigh Dickinson University survey had Bashaw nine points behind Kim, but by August Bashaw's own internal surveys found him to be just five points off.

The hotelier called his opponent "further to the left than any Democratic Senate candidate we've ever had in our state's history."

'Has no experience'

"He has only worked for the federal government," Bashaw charged. "He's a bureaucrat and an academic liberal that wants to tell us what to do, but he has no experience making an economy grow."

Bashaw cited the ongoing border crisis as an issue that will help his bid. Like New York, New Jersey has also faced a flood of migrants wreaking havoc across the Garden State.

"They're coming into communities — the poorer communities — taking already scarce and expensive housing," he said. "They're getting driver's licenses without identification."

AMAZIN'S

$2M suit vs. Mets after black Trump supporter 'targeted' for MAGA hat

By DEAN BALSAMINI

This Trump supporter is playing hardball with the New York Mets.

Aura Moody wants $2 million in damages from the team and Citi Field, claiming she was barred from entering the stadium last month until she took off her "Make America Great Again" hat, according to a Sept. 6 Brooklyn federal court lawsuit.

The Republican from Saint Albans, Queens, insisted the ban violated her right to free speech and caused her "emotional distress."

"This country is supposed to be the beacon of freedom for all," Moody, 64, who is representing herself, told The Post.

She's accusing the Mets of "racial discrimination and political retaliation" and "reputational harm."

Moody, a social worker and mother of two, said she and her friend were wearing MAGA hats when they arrived at Citi Field on Aug. 14 for a Mets-Oakland A's game. They were with eight other members of the Queens Village Republican Club.

They had just made it past security when a Citi Field staffer told them they were not allowed inside with their Trump gear on, she said.

Moody said she tried to invoke her First Amendment rights multiple times but was told by the staffer that the MAGA cap was "too political" and she needed to take it off.

Moody and her pal — who are both on the board of the club — only agreed to take their hats off because they were worried about inconveniencing the rest of their group, who were already in their seats.

Moody "attempted to de-escalate the situation" and asked if she could put her MAGA hat in her bag, but was told, "No because you can put the hat back on when you get to your seat. You have to take the MAGA hat out of the Stadium," according to court papers.

Moody "knew she was being racially targeted and politically retaliated against for being a Black woman wearing a MAGA hat, so she requested to speak to a supervisor," she said in the legal filing.

'We invite her back'

When Moody asked the security supervisor if she was required to take her MAGA hat outside Citi Field, the supervisor replied, "That's the policy."

So the two women were forced to call the friend they carpooled with in order to put the hats back in the vehicle, Moody claimed.

When Moody "finally arrived at her seat, she observed White persons wearing MAGA hats and MAGA attire" — other members of her group, she said in the litigation.

"A Mets employee was mistaken about our attire policy," the team initially said. "We are reaching out to Aura Moody to apologize and invite her back to the ballpark."

The suit acknowledges that a team rep phoned Moody Aug. 17 and "apologized on behalf of the New York Mets" and assured her that "there is no such policy against wearing a MAGA hat, and the Staff has been retrained."

The Mets have no comment on the lawsuit, said Nancy Elder, a team spokeswoman.

Moody told The Post she has not returned to Citi Field since the MAGA hat fiasco and isn't sure if she ever will.

"It was embarrassing. It was heartbreaking. It was shocking. It was humiliating," she said. "So how can I go back? It may take some time."



Facebook/Philip Shaw Chuan Wang

UNWELCOME: Aura Moody, 64, says she was humiliated by a Citi Field staffer on Aug. 14 when she was made to remove her MAGA hat.

'RACE BIAS'



Photos: Michael Nagle

FAIR PLAY: Post reporters Matthew Sedacca (left) and Deirdre Bardolf (right) enjoy a night out Tuesday at Citi Field in political regalia without being bothered by stadium staff.

By DEIRDRE BARDOLF and MATTHEW SEDACCA

They're not calling foul on political speech.

Citi Field is safe for politicking — despite a Trump supporter recently claiming stadium staff barred her from watching America's pastime while wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat.

A pair of Post reporters tested the Mets' political tolerance Tuesday during a game against the Nationals, with each wearing a T-shirt stumping for either former President Donald Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris, along with a MAGA hat or a blue "Kamala Harris 2024" cap.

Many staffers who bleed blue and orange were thrilled to see MAGA red.

"Ayy, make America great again! I love it!" one security guard told the Trump-garbed scribe at the stadium entrance before letting her skip the process of having her bag checked.

The Harris-dressed reporter received a chillier welcome, with security saying he would have to leave his backpack at a mobile locker outside before entering the stadium.

'Don't worry, me too'

Other staffers throughout the ballpark gave positive, unprompted comments about the bright red political symbolism.

"Oh, a Trump supporter? Don't worry, me too," a young concessionaire said before handing over a generous pile of french fries and a hot dog.

Not everyone, however, was thrilled by the purported Trumper. Some fans blew raspberries as the MAGA-clad reporter passed by, and a disapproving usher ribbed her over the former president spreading rumors about Haitians eating pets in Springfield, Ohio.

"Just making sure you're not eating any dog," the usher sniffed while eyeing the reporter's food tray.

The opinionated employee also told the Harris-repping reporter, "I like your shirt."

The political apparel's acceptance was an about-face from just a few weeks prior, when Trump diehard Aura Moody, 64, claimed she and a friend weren't allowed to enter the ballpark with their MAGA hats.

Additional reporting by Dean Balsamini



Don-Kam Virginia deadlock

Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump are virtually deadlocked in Virginia, which has emerged as a surprise battleground state in the 2024 presidential contest.

Harris had the support of 47% of Old Dominion voters compared with Trump's 46%, according to a new survey on Friday from the University of Mary Washington.

The survey was conducted by UMW's Center for Leadership and Media Studies by Research America Sept. 3-9, and included third-party candidates who netted 4%.

Harris' lead increased slightly to 48-46 in a head-to-head matchup.

Both results were well within the margin of error, indicating a statistical dead heat.

"This new survey suggests Virginia should be getting a much closer look from both presidential campaigns," said UMW political scientist Stephen J. Farnsworth. "Virginia may deserve to be treated as a 'swing state' once again this year."

The news is unwelcome for a Harris campaign that once expected Virginia to be in the bag. *Jon Levine*

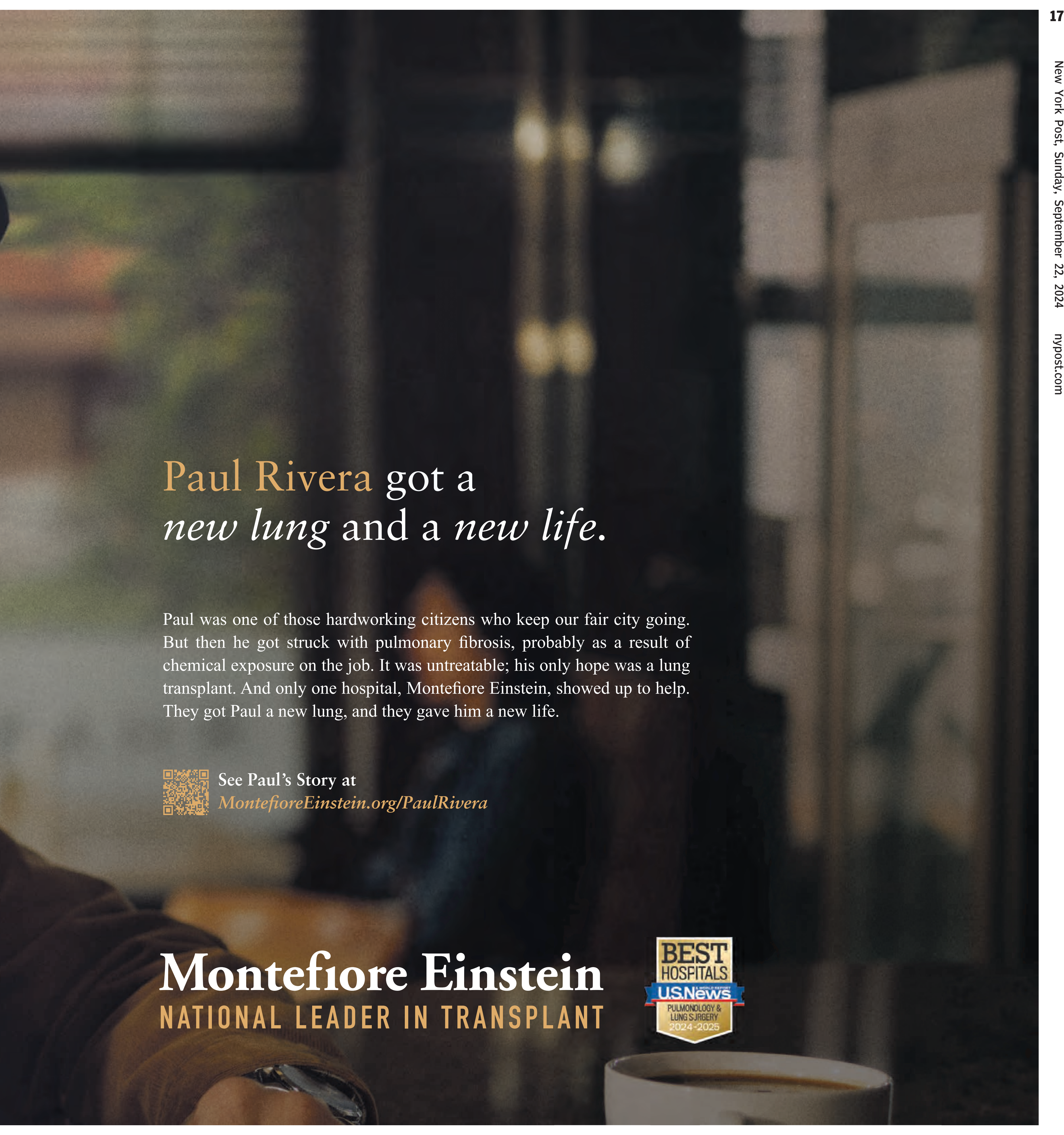
J.D. eats up VP's 'salad'

Kamala Harris is serving up so much "word salad" during her rare media interviews, according to Republican veep candidate J.D. Vance, that the Trump campaign is rooting for her to do more.

"Every time she does [an interview], I think we pick up 100,000 votes," he said Saturday in Leesport, Pa.

At a star-studded virtual rally hosted by Oprah Winfrey this past week, Harris ended her remarks with a two-minute monologue that baffled listeners, including Winfrey. *Carson Swick and Rich Calder*

EVERYONE LOVES A COMEBACK



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2024-2025

RUNNING MATES: Tina Fey (far right) played Sarah Palin (near right) on "Saturday Night Live" in 2008, and everyone had a laugh. This election, things are more contentious, and the show's head honcho Lorne Michaels (center) must walk a fine line.

NBCUniversal via Getty Images

FOR-LORNE?

As 'SNL' heads into its 50th season, Lorne Michaels and Co. face a seemingly impossible task: Nailing the joke in one of the most divisive elections in history

By SARA NATHAN

AS "Saturday Night Live" prepares for its 50th season premiere on Sept. 28, the show's legendary boss Lorne Michaels is readying for his toughest run to date.

"It's hard to imagine a scenario for the show where the stakes could be any higher," James Andrew Miller, author of the book, "Live from New York: An Uncensored History of Saturday Night Live," told Page Six.

With the election looming — historically the show's "Super Bowl" — a milestone anniversary and mounting intrigue that Michaels will finally retire after this season, it's the "ultimate SNL trifecta," Miller said.

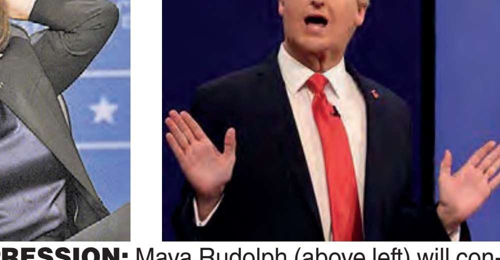
From former President Donald Trump hosting — twice — to his one-time rival Hillary Clinton playing a world-weary bartender and Tina Fey's infamous depiction of former VP candidate Sarah "I can see Russia from my house" Palin, the show has always poked fun at politics.

But with the country bitterly divided and the show more constrained than ever by fears of being both "canceled" and being "too woke" — according to a highly placed Hollywood insider — laughs are harder to come by.

The show's format, nearly unchanged since its first episode debuted live from Rockefeller Center at 11:30 p.m. on Oct. 11, 1975, is also a challenge.

"I haven't sat through an entire [episode] for god knows how long . . . no one in their 20s really watches TV, it's antiquated, unless you're obsessed with the host or musical guest, then you're watching it on clips," the insider. (Page Six has reached out to "SNL" for comment.)





NBC via Getty Images (2)

MAKING AN IMPRESSION: Maya Rudolph (above left) will continue to play Kamala Harris in the new season. Donald Trump was most recently played by James Austin Johnson (above right).

But Michaels, who has launched numerous stars — including Eddie Murphy, Bill Murray, Gilda Radner, Kristen Wiig and Will Ferrell — has pulled out the big guns for the first five episodes of the new season.

"Hacks" star Jean Smart, fresh off her Emmy win, will join musical guest Jelly Roll for the premiere. The weeks that follow will feature Nate Bargatze with musical guest Coldplay, Ariana Grande with musical guest Stevie Nicks and Michael Keaton with Billie Eilish.

Former "SNL" scribe John Mulaney will helm the last episode before the election with musical guest Chappell Roan.

It was actually Michaels who wanted Roan, the chart topper behind hits "Pink Pony Club" and "Hot To Go," sources said.

"Lorne always has his finger on the pulse," an insider said.

But Miller notes that star wattage will only get you so far.

"At the end of the day, what's going to matter most is the material. They don't want to be part of the political conversation; they want to lead it," he said. "There have been times when the show has been regarded as politically agnostic, liberal and even conservative, but given the bitterness, fear and historic hatred out there, this may be 'SNL's toughest balancing act in its history."

The show's cast was less than thrilled when Trump hosted as a presidential candidate in 2015, with protestors flocking outside 30 Rock.

In 2017, ex cast-member Taran Killam — who insiders say could return to play VP candidate Tim Walz after Steve Martin turned down the gig — told NPR, "It was rough . . . [and it] only grows more embarrassing and shameful as time goes on."

Trump himself has blasted that the show should be "put out to rest," and when asked whether he would accept an invitation to return, his rep did not respond.

A leading political PR person is also doubtful Harris would be game to host.

"While it would be funny [to see her on the show], 'SNL' is a hard thing to do," they said. "It has to be the right sketch, and I think it could only highlight the fact that she's not been giving interviews."

Trump has previously been played by Alec Baldwin and most recently by James Austin Johnson.

Michaels has said the former president's impression will be revamped in the coming season, but dodged questions as to whether Johnson would still wear the combover wig.

Harris, meanwhile, will continue to be played by Maya Rudolph.

The election isn't the only thing shining a spotlight on the upcoming season.

In October, Jason Reitman — who as the son of "Ghostbusters" director Ivan Reitman grew up surrounded by "SNL" legends including Dan Aykroyd — will debut his much-anticipated movie "Saturday Night," a reimagining of the show's chaotic first episode.

Michaels, friends tell The Post, will likely not see the film — he has lived it.

In February, the 50th anniversary of "SNL" will be celebrated with a celebrity-studded event at Radio City Music Hall followed by a reunion episode.

In 2020, Michaels, who turns 80 in November, said he planned to retire after the 50th season, sparking succession rumors.

But, this week, Michaels hedged on his plans to retire.

"As long as it's important and I can be useful, I'll stay," he told The Hollywood Reporter. "It's more about keeping it on course than anything else, and, obviously, I really love it."

When the time comes, Fey and Seth Meyers are two key names that have been bandied about to replace Michaels, though Miller notes it could well take a team to fill his Gucci loafers.

"There's no reason to put everything that he does into the hands of just one person, and every reason to split the many responsibilities between several individuals," he said. "It would be unfair to expect one person to replace him. There's not another Lorne out there."



Disney

FIRST LADY: Emmy-winning "Hacks" star Jean Smart will host the season premiere of "SNL" on Sept. 28.

Cuomo's ex in the 'House'

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THERE were a few cracks at the expense of former governor and one-time presidential hopeful **Andrew Cuomo** in the nation's capital this week.

His former girlfriend **Sandra Lee** — once tipped as future first lady — was in DC in her new role as the member of the White House Historical Association's National Council. She spent the evening at a dinner celebrating a new exhibit.

An insider snickered to Page Six: "At least one of them made it to the White House."

The event, hosted by President **Biden** and First Lady **Jill Biden**, was a grand opening dinner for "The People's House: A White House Experience," an interactive exhibition that "tells the story of the Executive Mansion, its inhabitants and the people who have dedicated their careers to its functions."

It was attended by other members of the White House Historical Association, as well as **Martin Sheen** (who, needless to say, played one of the most beloved fictional presidents, the "West Wing's" Jed Bartlet), Lyndon B. Johnson's daughter **Luci Johnson** and several other family members of former presidents.

Cuomo, who was with the "Semi-Homemade" TV chef from 2005 until 2019, was previously thought to be a Democratic frontrunner for the 2024 or 2028 presidential election.

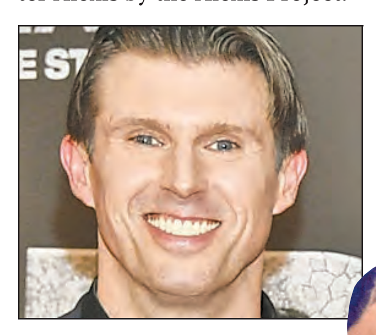
But shortly after they split, Cuomo's hopes began to crumble, first with his botched response to the COVID crisis in nursing homes and then with his resignation as governor over sexual misconduct allegations.

He's since lowered his sights a touch.

Earlier this week, The Post reported that supporters of the ex-gov "are spreading the word" that he's running for mayor as the administration of Mayor **Adams** faces mounting investigations. Meanwhile, his former right-hand aide, **Melissa DeRosa**, has been stirring the Gracie Mansion chatter, saying during a Forbes interview her phone was "ringing off the hook" about a Cuomo run. "What people are saying is, 'He's got to run. He's got to run.'"

Never 'Desperate'

ROSANNA Arquette admits she was taken aback when she was offered a senior discount for a train ticket. "It was my first time," the actress, 65, told Page Six at the Through Her Lens luncheon hosted by Chanel and Tribeca Enterprises. "I was like, 'Yeah, I guess!'" The "Desperately Seeking Susan" and "Pulp Fiction" star — who has been acting since she was a teen — has a more relaxed view on work these days. "If I'm going to work, I'm going to work; if I'm not, I'm not," she explained, adding that she's a survivor: "Forty-seven years and I'm still here!" This month, she and famous bro **David** attended a commemoration of their late sister Alexis by the Alexis Project.



It's a . . . human!

CHRISTOPHER Reeve's oldest son, **Matthew** (above), wants people to know his famous father, who was paralyzed after being thrown from a horse in 1995, "was a human being and a real normal person, just like everyone else." Matthew spoke to Page Six at the MoMA premiere of "Super/Man," a doc on his dad. His sister, **Alexandra**, noted the star, who died in 2004, "had highs and lows, and it was hard for him some days, but he persevered anyway." She hopes viewers relate to the themes of "love, loss and overcoming hardship."



That's what she gets for waking up in Rio! Katy Perry rocks Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with a high-kickin' number celebrating her latest album.

Reuters

Fan's bent shot

A slick partygoer at hot spot The Mulberry tried to snap a picture of soccer god **David Beckham** on Thursday and was called out of bounds. Beckham and his best friend, **David Gardner**, arrived at the buzzy Nolita establishment a little after midnight. The two were whisked to the bar's ultra-private Whisper Room, but it was apparently too quiet for Beckham — who preferred to "soak up the atmosphere" of the crowd, according to a source. Becks chilled in a banquette near the DJ booth, where **David Katz** spun tunes. We hear the legendary Manchester United star was dressed in the quintessential New York uniform — all black. He largely went unnoticed, until an eagle-eyed attendee on the dance floor spotted him and attempted to sneak footage of the British superstar. We're told Beckham didn't notice the woman and her phone, but management certainly did. They escorted her out to the empty street, we hear, where the local Feast of San Gennaro had already packed up for the night. The bar is known as a hangout for stars **Axl Rose**, **Brad Pitt**, **Janet Jackson**, **Beck** and **Margot Robbie**, among other celebs.



Luc over here

BRUNO Gouery, who plays Luc in "Emily in Paris," is still adjusting to fame. "I was in Central Park this afternoon and everyone recognized me!" he told Page Six at a PaleyLive program earlier this week. "A little bit, for the first time, I discover what **Mick Jagger** has lived with for 50 years," he added, in a charming Gallic accent. However, this isn't Gouery's first breakout moment. He was also in the gay cabal that tried to murder **Jennifer Coolidge**'s character in Season 2 of "The White Lotus." "Last year I come for the first time in New York, and when I arrived at the airport, I remember people telling me, 'You're one of the gay guys who killed Jennifer!'" said the actor (above). "It's fantastic, what can I say. God bless America!"

Royal's automatic gear shift

EMILY Maitlis knew she'd "witnessed something extraordinary" after her 2019 interview with Prince **Andrew** for the BBC. The sitdown, and her personal life, are depicted in Amazon Prime's "A Very Royal Scandal," with **Ruth Wilson** portraying Maitlis. The interview made global headlines when the now-besmirched royal defended his friendship with Jeffrey Epstein. Maitlis told us that when she'd finished filming, both she and the royal had "come away with totally different things." "I remember thinking, 'Either you're fine and I'm totally mistaken or else you're not fine, in which case, the interview was the one that I thought I'd done.'" Wilson told Page Six she was keen to tackle the role because "I've never played a public person before, so that intrigued me." Andrew, who's played by **Michael Sheen** in the series, retired from public roles in 2020. Wilson declined to bad-mouth the disgraced royal, but she admitted to complicated feelings about the Windsor clan. The UK "is a little island nation," she shared. "We're weird and eccentric and the royal family are intrinsic to it." She added that she respects the "tradition," but "the idea of someone being in power" because of their family "doesn't make sense."

Southampton Estate with **Private Ocean Access**





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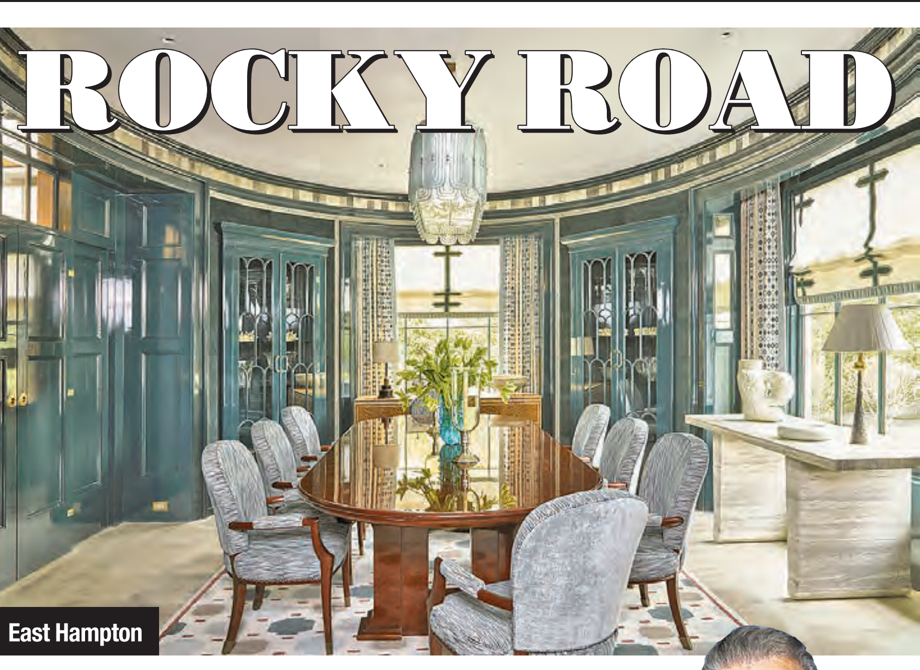
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Gimme Shelter

JENNIFER GOULD



East Hampton

Tria Giovan/James Michael Howard (2)

ROCKY ROAD

DON'T be surprised if you see the Stallone sisters — **Sophia**, **Sistine** and **Scarlet** — in the Hamptons sometime soon. We hear their father, "Rocky" legend **Sylvester Stallone** (right), is in contract to buy them a highly designed eight-bedroom home in East Hampton, Gimme Shelter can reveal. The contract is for close to the home's $24.95 million asking price — and it's an all-cash deal, sources say. The sale has not yet closed, meaning the final price is not yet available. The purchase, we hear, is the talk of Palm Beach — where Hell's Kitchen native Sly, 77, and his wife, former model **Jennifer Flavin**, 55, are living as empty nesters in a $35 million mansion.



Spies say Stallone bought the residence sight unseen following two video tours. The daughters' relocation from Hollywood to the East Coast was featured in the second season of "The Family Stallone" on Paramount+. Stallone even had Sophia and Sistine train with Navy SEALs to prepare for their big move. The new-construction spread was developed by interior designer **James Michael Howard**, who is known for his impeccable Southern charm and style. The dwelling comes fully furnished — curated with pricey antiques from around the world, custom furnishings, art and finishes. It's also turn-key ready. The 11,644-square-foot home is also just a mile from the ocean. The residence also comes with a pool and a pool house — all on 1.1 acres. Listing brokers **Martha Gundersen** and **Paul Brennan** of Douglas Elliman declined to comment.

Getty



3739 Collins Ave.

Veronica Ruiz

Hue's the boss

A MIAMI Beach penthouse owned and designed by art curator **Ximena Caminos** (above), the former partner of Argentine hotelier and real estate developer **Alan Faena**, has just hit the market for $7.7 million. The colorful four-bedroom, 4½-bathroom home comes with a 3,500-square-foot rooftop "sky bar." It's located at the Caribbean, 3739 Collins Ave. The entire penthouse, two units purchased separately for a total of $4.25 million, were combined and renovated by Caminos, with consulting by **Galia Solomonoff** of SAS/Solomonoff Architecture Studio. The 3,357-square-foot pad comes with ocean views, and chic interiors including vintage furniture and murals by the Argentine artist **Augusto Falopapas**. There's also a chef's kitchen designed with pink onyx "to feel like a bar," according to the listing from Compass broker **Nancy Batchelor**.



230 Central Park South

Gloria Kilbourne/Douglas Elliman

Checks & balances

THIS is a different kind of flip. President and CEO of USA Gymnastics, **Li Li Leung** (below), a former gymnast herself, and her husband, **Christopher Smits**, are listing their Central Park South home in New York City for $1.25 million — down slightly from its $1.29 million ask in June. They bought the one-bedroom residence, at the Southmoor House condop at 230 Central Park South, in 2015 for $1.23 million — slightly over its $1.1 million ask, following a bidding war. The apartment is around 800 square feet, and comes with high ceilings and an oversize open living/dining area. The fourth-floor space features floor-to-ceiling windows, and the king-sized bedroom comes with a large walk-in closet. Details include beamed ceilings, an updated bathroom and a windowed kitchen. The 17-story Art Deco building, dating to 1937, comes with 66 units The listing broker is **McKenzie Ryan** of Douglas Elliman.

Getty



781 Fifth Ave.

Helayne Seidman (2)



Pros and con

THE Manhattan penthouse tied to convicted Chinese fraudster **Guo Wengui** (above) is back on the market for $24 million — a major cut from its initial $86 million ask. Guo lived in this Sherry-Netherland unit aerie, which he purchased for $67.5 million in 2015, while he waited for political asylum. Instead, by March of 2023, the FBI showed up at dawn to arrest him for orchestrating a billion-dollar fraud scheme. This past July, Guo was convicted by a court in Manhattan of defrauding his online followers in an investment and cryptocurrency scheme, in part, to buy a $26.5 million New Jersey mansion. He was found guilty on nine of 12 criminal counts against him. The full-floor penthouse is 7,000 square feet, with six bedrooms and 100 feet showcasing Central Park, along with three large terraces overlooking the city. The listing broker is **Serena Boardman** of Sotheby's, who couldn't be reached for comment.



Mounties' bounty

A PARK Avenue residence that has been home to Canada's consul general and used for official functions is on the market for $9.5 million. "Governments are becoming more strategic in their property portfolio management," said Douglas Elliman's **Thomas Aabo**, who is co-listing the property with Elliman's **Erin Boisson Aries**. The pair also repped the Canadian government on its 111 W. 57th St. purchase on Billionaires' Row, which caused a stir when property records revealed that the owner was "His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, Represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs." The 550 Park Ave. pad is on the 12th floor. It's in a classic prewar building designed by J.E.R. Carpenter in 1917 and comes with 11-foot-high ceilings, herringbone walnut floors and large windows.



550 Park Ave.

Rinze van Brug (2)

MIRANDA DEVINE

How pressure from VP dad rid Cover 'fire' for corruption

Hunter Biden's abandoned MacBook was a window into the Biden family business, a secret international influence peddling operation. New York Post columnist Miranda Devine, who exposed many of Hunter's secrets in her book "Laptop from Hell," returns with "The Big Guy," the story of how the FBI, the CIA, the State Department, the IRS and the Department of Justice conspired to protect Joe Biden and his family. Here, in a second exclusive excerpt, she explains the Ukrainian intrigue that surrounded Joe and Hunter:

HUNTER BIDEN was invited to join the Burisma board at the Italian resort of Lake Como, where he had flown with his best friend and business partner Devon Archer in April 2014 to a management conference at the Villa d'Este, a sumptuous haunt of Russian oligarchs overlooking the water.

It was six weeks after the collapse of Viktor Yanukovych's government in Ukraine, and Hunter and Archer joked in emails before they arrived that they were living like the fictional spies, James Bond and Jason Bourne: "Might be very Bond/Bourne to get the 'gharchs [oligarchs] up at the lake for a meeting," Archer wrote.

They had a meeting scheduled with Russia's richest woman, Elena Baturina, who had just wired $3.5 million to their firm, Rosemont Seneca Thornton.

'Use your influence'

The next day, Hunter met Burisma official Vadym Pozharskyi for the first time.

According to Archer, Burisma owner Mykola Zlochevsky, 48, asked Hunter to join the Burisma board during a walk by the lake.

"I am strongly leaning towards agreeing to board position. Let's decide this and move on it by Monday," Hunter emailed Archer a few days later.

Hunter wanted the board seat — and the $83,333 a month payment that came with it — but he needed Burisma to hide his involvement to avoid bad optics for his father.

Pozharskyi pushed back firmly in an email: "I do believe that we have to reach reasonable balance here," he told Archer. "Taking into account the political weight of our Directors we have to 'use' their personality carefully and strategically wise, I do realize their vulnerability in this respect . . . [but] we cannot 'hide' our directors."

As soon as Hunter joined the board, Pozharskyi wasted no time pressuring him to "use your influence" to combat the Ukrainian government's allegations against Burisma of "misappropriation, embezzlement or conversion of property by malversation."

"Following our talks during the visit to the Como Lake and our further discussions, I would like to bring the following situation to your attention," wrote Pozharskyi the following month. "One or more pretrial proceedings were initiated by the [Ukrainian] Ministry of Internal Affairs with regard to Burisma Holdings companies . . . We urgently need your advice on how you could use your influence to convey a message/signal, etc to stop what we consider to be politically motivated actions."

Two weeks after the Lake Como trip, Hunter and Archer visited the vice president's office in the White House, ostensibly for help with a book project for Archer's son Luke.

While they were there, Hunter took a photograph of Archer with his father in front of an American flag that would be posted on Burisma's website the following day, April 17, 2014, as evidence of the corrupt company's powerful friends in the US.

The same day, almost 4,000 miles away in London's Central Criminal Court, Britain's redoubtable Serious Fraud Office was granted a court order to freeze $23 million in Zlochevsky's London bank accounts.



THE PROSECUTOR



THE GAS MOGUL

FORCED OUT: Ex-top prosecutor Viktor Shokin says Joe Biden pressured Ukraine to oust him amid a probe of Mykola Zlochevsky, owner of Burisma, where Hunter Biden served on the board.

At a high-powered international forum in London later that week, the British government showcased the Zlochevsky investigation as a textbook case of the first successful seizure of assets stolen by Yanukovych's regime. It was seen as a feather in the cap of lawmakers from all over the world.

Alas, they all were left with egg on their faces.

Back in Ukraine, something had gone terribly wrong, and according to George Kent, the bow-tie-wearing deputy chief of mission with the US Embassy in Kyiv, it was because "a $7 million bribe was paid."

In December 2014, in the Old Bailey criminal court of London, Zlochevsky's defense lawyers produced a letter signed by a junior investigator in Ukrainian Prosecutor General Vitaly Yarema's office, stating that there was "no active case against their client."

Judge [Nicholas] Blake dismissed the case and unfroze Zlochevsky's funds.

'A job I didn't want'

The SFO team was furious with their American counterparts in Kyiv. The FBI was embedded in the embassy in Ukraine. They were supposed to be in constant contact with the Prosecutor General's Office. They had assured the Brits the Zlochevsky case was under control.

Instead, the Zlochevsky case simply faded away.

This was the mess that Viktor Shokin, then 62, walked into when he was nominated as Prosecutor General on Feb. 10, 2015, after then-Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko fired the disgraced Yarema.

In an interview via encrypted voice call with a translator on the line, Shokin, now 72, told me he was reluctant to take the job, the Ukrainian equivalent of the attorney general, because he knew it was a political poisoned chalice.

"I had held the position of deputy prosecutor general three times," he said. "I was very experienced in cases of corruption and related investigations . . . What I think happened was that Poroshenko tried to increase his own credibility by appointing me to be Prosecutor General . . . He literally talked me into becoming Prosecutor General. It was a job that I didn't want."

Hunter & co. of Ukrainian probe



FOX News/Tucker Carlson Tonight

NEW YORK POST
Page Six.
LATE CITY FINAL

Revealed: Ukrainian exec thanked Hunter Biden for 'opportunity to meet' veep dad

BIDEN SECRET E-MAILS

EXCLUSIVE PAGES 4-7

FORE-GETFUL: While President Biden has denied any involvement with First Son Hunter's dealings at Burisma, fellow board member Devon Archer (far left) interacted with the veep while golfing in 2014.

A twice-married widower and father of three, Shokin lives alone on a pension in a modest house he built himself 25 years ago in a village near a lake outside Kyiv.

He prides himself on his integrity and was not regarded as corrupt by ordinary Ukrainians during his decades as a prosecutor, a miracle in a country where nothing is as it seems, oligarchs rule the roost and prosecuting your political opponents is par for the course.

While the Bidens and their defenders continually branded him corrupt, they never produced any evidence.

He was popular with the public because of his reputation for taking on the powerful and his flair for the dramatic. He had solved several high-profile corruption cases and had been the target of at least one assassination attempt.

The Zlochevsky case had been opened in 2012 under one of Shokin's predecessors, Viktor Pshonka, over allegations of money laundering, tax evasion and corruption.

But Pshonka's term was cut short when he fled to Russia in 2014 with the rest of Yanukovich's cronies.

'Highly illegal'

One of the first things Shokin did when he became prosecutor general was to reopen the case: "We started exploring and investigating the Zlochevsky situation and looking into the illegal activities by Burisma, which were highly illegal," he told me.

"Zlochevsky had been a minister in Yanukovych [sic] cabinet and he himself handed out licenses to himself to produce gas in Ukraine . . . They were producing gas illegally."

Shokin placed Zlochevsky, who was in exile in Monaco and Dubai, on Ukraine's "most-wanted" list on suspicion of embezzlement.

By the fall of 2015, he was planning to interview Hunter and other members of the Burisma board. He describes Hunter as a "wedding general," a Russian term for a well-connected figurehead who has no role to play in the business. The term comes from a 19th-century tradition of bourgeois families in Russia inviting a retired general to a wedding to provide gravitas.

"There was a good reason for Zlochevsky to invite Hunter Biden to Burisma. Clearly, it was because he was the son of the Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden. He was in a position to help Zlochevsky because the vice president was handling Ukraine affairs for the United States, and basically, he was in charge of all things domestic and foreign for Ukraine.

"Archer was invited [onto the board], too, and soon photographs of all of them together, Archer, [and Hunter] Biden appeared in various media outlets in Ukraine in a show of their support for him [Zlochevsky]. We knew that Zlochevsky was using those photographs to prove that he had them as patrons and protectors.

"Zlochevsky, of course, understood that sooner or later, he will be punished for all the evil things and the crimes he committed against Ukraine. And that is why he was trying all these things [to get off the hook]. However, no matter how hard he tried, the investigation was going ahead at full speed and as scheduled."

Burisma was under "pressure from Ukrainian Government investigations into [Zlochevsky], et cetera," Archer testified to the impeachment committee in 2024, "and they [Zlochevsky and Pozharskyi] requested Hunter, you know, help them with some of that pressure."

That pressure was being exerted by Shokin. The pressure is what prompted Pozharskyi to write Hunter and Archer increasingly urgent emails in the fall of 2015, demanding that they use their influence to "close down" the criminal investigation against Burisma.

It is what precipitated the phone call to Joe that Zlochevsky and Pozharskyi got Hunter to make the night of the board meeting in Dubai in December 2015.

It is the pressure that the Bidens and their defenders repeatedly ignored, claiming instead that Shokin had let the criminal case against Burisma go dormant because he was corrupt.

On March 29, 2016, Poroshenko and the parliament of Ukraine, the Rada, succumbed to Joe's threats that he would withhold $1 billion in US aid unless Shokin was fired. Shokin is certain Joe pushed him out to protect Hunter.

"The United States is a respectable country, and I like it very much," Shokin told me. "But who gave Biden authority to interfere in the affairs of a sovereign country and act like its handler? A lot of damage was done, and a great deal of people knew about it and that's why the Supreme Council [of the Rada] initially refused to sanction my resignation."

Joe Biden's defense of Hunter's Ukrainian grift relies on Shokin being corrupt. The Democrats impeached Donald Trump on the strength of that uncorroborated allegation.

Shokin has maintained his innocence ever since and points out that, eight years after his ouster, nobody has produced any evidence of wrongdoing by him.

Just a coincidence?

In the damage control narrative created by the Bidens and their allies, and laundered through friendly media outlets, it was not just US policy but very much the Europeans — the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the European Commission — who wanted Shokin out.

In this scenario, Joe had little agency and it was just a coincidence that the removal of Shokin benefited the company that was paying his wayward son $1 million a year.

However, none of the European bodies cited had ever called specifically for Shokin's removal or even mentioned his name. The charges against Burisma and Zlochevsky were dropped just seven months after Shokin was fired.

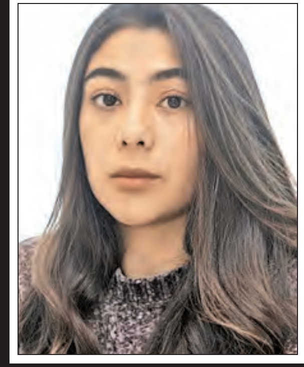
Joe lauded Shokin's successor, Yuri Lutsenko, as "solid" when he was appointed. US officials praised the former political prisoner as a reformer who would eradicate corruption in the Prosecutor General's Office.

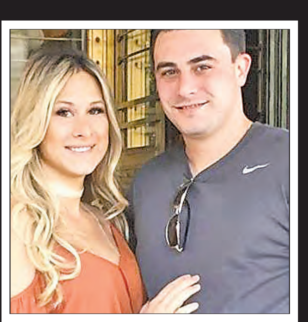
Yet a few months after taking office, Lutsenko closed all "legal proceedings and pending criminal allegations" against Zlochevsky and removed him from the "most wanted" list Shokin had placed him on.

After paying a fine, the Burisma owner was free to return to Ukraine from exile.

Excepted with permission from "The Big Guy: How a President and His Son Sold Out America" by Miranda Devine, out Tuesday from Broadside Books.

SI SPY 'WRIST-SLAP'







'NOT ENOUGH': Kelly Andrade (upper inset) had to flee out a window after finding secret recordings of her by Michael Esposito (lower inset with wife Danielle). Yet he got only probation.

Provided by Derek Smith Law Group, PLLC

$2M+ to au pair but no jail for wealthy perv

By DEAN BALSAMINI

A Manhattan jury awarded $2.78 million to a "petrified" au pair who was secretly videotaped by a creepy Staten Island dad and fast-food chicken mogul — but the victim is outraged he got only a "slap on the wrist" from prosecutors.

Michael Esposito, 35, recorded "hundreds" of nude videos of Colombia native Kelly Andrade, 25, then tried to break down her door as she cowered in fear after finding a hidden camera in her bedroom, according to a Brooklyn federal court lawsuit.

He was arrested in 2021 on a charge of unlawful surveillance, a felony punishable by up to four years in prison. But the Staten Island district Attorney and a Staten Island judge instead allowed Esposito to walk, provided he undergo counseling and satisfy two years probation.

"It's not enough for the whole situation I've been through these three years. It's not enough," Andrade told The Post before breaking down in tears. "I was angry because the damage that he caused me is irreversible."

The South American woman underwent hundreds of hours of training before being hired by placement firm Cultural Care Au Pair and coming to the US in 2021. The company situated her in the $800,000 waterfront Tottenville home of Esposito, the owner of three LaRosa Grill franchises, and his wife, Danielle.

'Need to get away'

The Espositos gave Andrade a bedroom to sleep in while she cared for their four young kids, but the au pair claimed she kept catching Esposito in her room, fiddling with the ceiling smoke detector, which "was constantly being repositioned," according to the lawsuit.

Less than three weeks into the job, she examined the smoke detector, finding a camera inside with a memory card filled with "hundreds of recordings," many capturing her "nude and/or dressing/undressing," she charged.

"Within minutes" of her finding the device, Esposito showed up at the house, she claimed.

"He seemed very nervous and he seemed very worried when he arrived to the house," she recalled.

Andrade tried to pretend she was sleeping in a bid to get Esposito to leave, but he was "banging on the door" and she entered "fight or flight mode," she previously told The Post. "I need to get away," she recounted.

She leapt from a first-floor window, injuring her knee.

The first night after leaving the Espositos, Andrade "slept on the street in a bush," her attorney, Zachary Holzberg, told The Post.

'No consequence'

Andrade reported the incident to cops at the 123rd Precinct, who arrested Esposito March 24, 2021.

But in April 2022 the Staten Island businessman "entered into a two-step plea." After "successfully completing" a year of counseling, he "was permitted" to withdraw his felony plea and pled down to attempted unlawful surveillance, a misdemeanor, with only two years probation, the Staten Island DA's Office said.

Andrade and Holzberg wanted Esposito behind bars.

At the four-day civil trial this month in Brooklyn Federal Court, Andrade testified for three days. Esposito never took the stand.

The au pair said she was "in shock" just to be in the same room as Esposito.

Holzberg said he argued that "there was no consequence" for Esposito, "who got probation . . . a slap on the wrist."

"Despite him doing this, he got to go home to his wife and children in their mansion and she's sleeping on the street," he said.

The jury awarded $780,000 in emotional distress damages against both Michael and his wife Danielle, as well as $2 million in punitive damages against the dad.

"Right now I'm working on myself recovering," Andrade said. "It wasn't easy for me to be on a trial. It was a very difficult time for me. It brings back memories that I'm trying to forget."

Andrade said she is speaking out "to encourage many au pairs and also immigrants who have been victims of abuse. Don't keep quiet. Don't be afraid to report your aggressor."

'Slay teen' mom's 'abuse'

A Georgia woman whose teen son allegedly killed four people at Apalachee HS is accused of taping her elderly mother to a chair, stealing her phone and damaging her home, according to a report.

Marcee Gray was indicted in November in Ben Hill County for the alleged abuse of Deborah Polhamus, who was bound to a chair in her home for almost 24 hours, The Atlanta Journal Constitution reported.

Gray was slapped with charges including exploitation and intimidation of a elderly person and false imprisonment, the outlet reported.

Matthew Sedacca

Secrets on 'death' yacht

A trove of top-secret documents and confidential data on foreign governments could be trapped inside the doomed Bayesian superyacht after the $40 million vessel capsized last month, killing its billionaire owner and six others last month, according to a report.

Italian prosecutors ordered heightened security around the sunken boat to protect the sensitive information that they believe was stored in water-tight safes before the Aug. 19 tragedy, sources told CNN.

Yacht owner Mike Lynch was linked to several intelligence agencies.

Katherine Donlevy

News of the World®

GERMANY

A previously unknown piece of music composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was discovered at a German library.

It consists of seven miniature movements for a string trio and dates back to the 1760s, according to Leipzig Municipal Libraries.

Researchers found it while putting together the newest edition of the Koechel catalog, a chronology of Mozart's works.

The score, on handmade paper, is believed to be a copy of the original.

MEXICO

A priest sprinkled holy water along Highway 180 in Veracruz after accidents there that took the lives of six people and severely injured two children.

Father Baxin of Santa Ana Church in Soconusco stood in a pickup truck to give the blessing, using rosemary springs to dispense the holy water.

He also prayed with parishioners at the entrance to the parkway.

CHINA

Sales of mooncakes have been on a sharp decline due to a sluggish economy and a government crackdown.

The traditional treat, eaten during September's Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, is usually sold as a high-end gift, but some are baking them at home to save money.

In addition, the administration of Chinese President Xi Jinping has associated the cakes with corruption because of how intricate and costly they've become and enacted laws around their pricing and packaging.

BRAZIL

A drought has driven water levels in Amazon basin rivers to their lowest levels on record.

The situation, more concerning because it happened early in the region's dry season, reflects not only less rainfall and hotter temperatures but also deforestation.

Brazil's natural disaster monitoring agency Cemaden called the current drought the "most intense and widespread" it's ever seen.

CANADA

Women hockey players in Kenora, Ontario, say they're facing gender-based discrimination with a new ice-allocation policy.

They're threatening to take the city to court since women's leagues get only two hours of ice time per week, beginning at 10 p.m.

Angela Barbuti, Wires

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Available in Men's Sizes M-XXXL

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Hat



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President Trump Men's Hoodie

Crafted in a black easy-care cotton blend knit, the back of the hoodie showcases striking artwork of Donald Trump against an American flag background with the powerful quote, *"Together, We will make America STRONG again. We will make America WEALTHY again. We will make America PROUD again. We will make America SAFE again. And yes, together, we will make America GREAT again."* Adding to the patriotic look is an embroidered American flag patch on the sleeve. Custom details include a gray thermal knit lined hood, kangaroo front pockets, knit cuffs and hem, a full front zipper, and silver-toned metal tippets on the hood drawstrings. Imported.

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I05401

Combs' lube law

Att'y: Bought in bulk

By GEORGETT ROBERTS and KATHERINE DONLEVY

Sean "Diddy" Combs is in "relatively good" spirits despite his high-profile sex-trafficking scandal, his lawyer said — while downplaying the federal raid that uncovered 1,000 bottles of lube and baby oil in the rapper's home.

Attorney Marc Agnifilo did not deny that federal agents discovered the lubricant and three AR-15s during a March raid on Combs' homes in Miami and Los Angeles — but claimed it was not as nefarious as it seemed.

'Consensual'

"I don't think it was 1,000. I think it was a lot. I mean, there is a Costco right down the street. I think Americans buy in bulk, as we know," Agnifilo told The Post Saturday outside Brooklyn's notorious Metropolitan Detention Center, where Combs, 54, is behind bars.

"And you know these are consensual adults doing what consensual adults do," Agnifilo said, adding, "We can't get so puritanical to think that somehow sex is a bad thing because if it was there would be no more people."

He spent the entire seven-hour visiting block working with Combs to build his defense case — which the lawyer said was growing strong enough to win back the music mogul's freedom.

Combs was twice denied bail following his arrest this week on charges of sex trafficking, racketeering and transportation to engage in prostitution. He pleaded not guilty and faces a minimum of 15 years in prison if convicted.

The "I'll Be Missing You" rapper, was reportedly put on suicide watch — but Agnifilo emphasized that Combs was feeling hopeful.

"He's just laser-focused, he's engaged, he's helpful, he's confident. We're going through our defense as we do every day and his spirits are relatively good," he said.

Several witnesses have told The Post about participating in Combs' "freak-off" parties.

'Gals? Lock 'em up'

Video of Sean "Diddy" Combs joking that you need locks on doors at parties to keep women there has resurfaced amid his arrest on sex-trafficking charges.

On NBC's "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" in 2002, host O'Brien asked the rapper-turned-mogul to explain the ingredients for a "killer party."

"Women, beautiful women, of course," Combs said. "Beautiful men for the ladies, of course."

When O'Brien suggested not having other men at the party, Combs replied, "There's enough ladies to go around. You have to give the ladies what they need, too. You have to take care of your women. You can't force the situation."

Combs, now 54, went on to say you need "alcohols" and water because "a lot of ladies drink water at parties, so if you don't have what they need, they're going to leave. Got to keep them there, you need locks on the doors."

He added, "It's a little kinky." *Lindsey Kupfer*

Diddy tricked me into a...

Rachel Kennedy was 'lured' to rapper's hotel

By JEANETTE SETTEMBRE and MICHAEL KAPLAN

SEAN "DIDDY" COMBS was out at the Seventh Heaven strip club in Tokyo with an entourage of around 25 people at the height of his fame in the early 2000s, when he summoned topless dancer Rachel Kennedy to come back to his hotel for a party, she exclusively told The Post.

"He was asking for me and we started drinking and talking," Kennedy, now 51 and living in Arizona, recalled. "We hit it off, we're talking and he invites me and my friends back to his hotel for a party. I took the girls with me and we went to Diddy's hotel."

However, as Kennedy recalls, Diddy — arrested this week on federal sex-trafficking charges — was the only one present when she and two friends arrived at his room.

The now-disgraced hip hop mogul answered the door in a robe holding a bottle of Champagne.

"We all knew at that point it was going to turn out to be just a party of one," Kennedy said.

Kennedy told The Post she was doing cocaine with her pals on the night they were lured to Diddy's hotel room under false party pretenses, but the rapper did not partake.



Ron Galella Collection via Getty Images

GOLDEN COUPLE: Diddy showed videos of his then-girlfriend Jennifer Lopez to Rachel Kennedy (right) before they got sexy in a Tokyo hotel room.

'Forceful'

Little did she know at the time she was about to be introduced to what Diddy would later call "Freak Offs" — highly charged sexual performances — which have now landed him in legal trouble, charged with racketeering conspiracy, sex trafficking and transportation to engage in prostitution.

"We were partying, doing cocaine. I never saw Diddy doing cocaine. He said he only smoked weed at the time," Kennedy said.

Diddy, now 54, even bragged about bringing marijuana through the airport, saying "he doesn't need to hide it," Kennedy said, noting she spotted marijuana in the hotel room.

At the time, Diddy was at the peak of his celebrity, having had a worldwide megahit with "I'll Be Missing You" in 1997 and "Bad Boy For Life" in 2001. He'd also been linked to a deadly 1999 nightclub shooting and was a hugely successful record label boss and entrepreneur as well as a rapper.

He was also famously dating one of the most beautiful women in the world — Jennifer Lopez.

Kennedy recalls how Combs bizarrely even "started showing us videos of his girlfriend [J.Lo's] music videos. He was having us watch her music videos back to back to back."

"I said, 'Oh, that's really cool.' It felt weird because we were in his hotel room and he's showing us videos of his girlfriend," Kennedy said. "That happened for a while. He invited me and my friend to his bedroom with him. He didn't like the other girl [so she stayed in the living room].

"We went back into his bedroom and started having oral sex. We were all on his bed. Right when we were done, he was still naked, and in comes his head of security," Kennedy recalled.

That's when Kennedy recalled Diddy's bodyguard allegedly became "forceful" with her and her friends — and Diddy did nothing to stop it.

"He [the bodyguard] starts trying to kick us out the door. We thought he was going to stomp our faces in," she said. "He was forceful. We just wanted to get out as quickly as possible.

'FREAK OFF'



Frank Micelotta/ImageDirect

Courtesy Bureau of Prisons/Getty Images

© Globe Photos/ZUMA Wire

DIDDY'S DEBAUCHERY: Sean "Diddy" Combs has long lived a playboy lifestyle — and courted controversy. In 1999 he was arrested for possession of a firearm (mugshot above), but was eventually acquitted. The bust came at the height of his fame on stage (top) and off, with the rapper throwing wild parties (right, in the Hamptons in 1998) and running a hugely successful record label.

Courtesy of Rachel Kennedy

FREAK ENCOUNTER: Rachel Kennedy — a topless dancer, model and actress appearing in various publications (pictured) — met Diddy at a strip club where she worked and went back to his hotel room for a "party" . . . but he was the only one there.

Go Nakamura for New York Post

Courtesy of Rachel Kennedy

"[The bodyguard] came in with a force we knew he wasn't just coming in to party with us.

"Maybe it was a set up between the two of them. This is [Diddy's] private bedroom in his hotel room — who has that kind of access that they can barge in his hotel like that while he's having relations with girls?" Kennedy wondered. "He [Diddy] wouldn't say a word to us, he was just quietly putting his clothes on while the bodyguard was trying to kick us out the door. It's that gang mentality — if one can't take care of business the other one got his back. It's scary."

The embattled hip-hop mogul is currently being held in jail at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.

The indictment against Diddy alleges he "abused, threatened, and coerced women and others around him to fulfill his sexual desires, protect his reputation, and conceal his conduct."

He is also accused of abusing women and forcing them to engage in the Freak Off performances to fulfil his sexual desires, according to federal prosecutors. The Freak Offs were described in the indictment as elaborate sex performances that the disgraced hip hop mogul "arranged, directed, masturbated during, and often electronically recorded."

Diddy pleaded not guilty and was placed on suicide watch inside the Brooklyn jail on Friday where he awaits trial for the alleged sex crimes.

A judge turned down his offer of $50 million for bail.

The Post previously reported Diddy' Freak Off parties were so wild they stunned one strong-stomached drug dealer.

The pusher told The Post Diddy opened the door to his former Hamptons mansion while wearing nothing but a robe — just like when greeting Kennedy — and brought him to a back bedroom to make the cocaine deal.

"Weird s--t was starting to happen. Celebrity guys f--king each other," the dealer explained, adding, "You'd see two people you would not think would be hooking up, rappers, that was what shocked me."

Allegations of Combs' criminal indictment first came to light last November when the rapper's ex-girlfriend, R&B singer Cassie Ventura, sued him for alleged rape and physical abuse, starting in 2005 through to 2018.

"After years in silence and darkness, I am finally ready to tell my story, and to speak up on behalf of myself and for the benefit of other women who face violence and abuse in their relationships," Ventura, 37, said in a statement via her attorneys at the time.

Diddy denied any wrongdoing through his lawyers and settled the lawsuit within 24 hours of it being filed.

However, the floodgates were open and further lawsuits have followed, the charges in each of which have also been denied by his legal team.

'In a room alone'

Kennedy told The Post she was shocked that Diddy did nothing to stop his "violent" bodyguard, and by his rude response.

"We got away from him [the bodyguard] and we were able to run faster than him. It was probably 30 rooms we had to pass before we got to the elevator," she recalled. "We went downstairs — I called Diddy asking why is your friend being so violent with us? He hung up the phone on me.

"Our thought was we were going to a party. I can see how a party can turn into a one-on-one with P Diddy when you're not expecting it," Kennedy said.

"We never thought we were going to be in a room with him only," she added.

Iran's Russia missile mystery

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

Iran sent ballistic missiles to Russia without the mobile launchers needed to fire them, and Tehran will not be sending the crucial equipment anytime soon, intelligence sources say.

On Sept. 10, Secretary of State Antony Blinken accused Tehran of providing short-range ballistic missiles to Moscow, which would "likely use them within weeks in Ukraine."

Sources said it's unclear why Iran didn't provide the launchers for the Fath-360 missiles, but experts suggested multiple explanations for the launchers' absence, including that it could be part of a ploy to shore up goodwill during the coming week's talks at the United Nations General Assembly in New York between Iranian and Western officials.

Nuke discussions

Iranian officials, including the nation's new "reformist" president, Masoud Pezeshkian, will meet with European leaders aside from the main events UN to potentially discuss Tehran's nuclear program, regional hostilities and other issues.

"One can imagine that if there are Iranian missiles raining down [on Ukraine] there would be condemnation at the General Assembly," said David Albright, head of the Institute for Science and International Security and a former UN nuclear inspector.

Fabian Hinz, an Iranian missiles expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, suggested the missing launchers also may be because Russia is expected to modify its own trucks that are equipped to handle the difficult terrain in Ukraine.

Tehran typically converts trucks produced by Mercedes and other companies into missile launchers that are easily disguised.

"A commercial, off-the-shelf Mercedes truck is just not that off-road capable," according to Hinz.

With Wires

Post Weather Report

AccuWeather Get the AccuWeather app

Sunday

Today: Breezy; cloudy, then clouds and sun. High 72 to 78.

Tonight: Mainly clear. Low 53 to 59.

Monday

Tomorrow: Times of clouds and sun. High 66 to 72.

Tomorrow night: Mostly cloudy. Low 54 to 60.

Tuesday

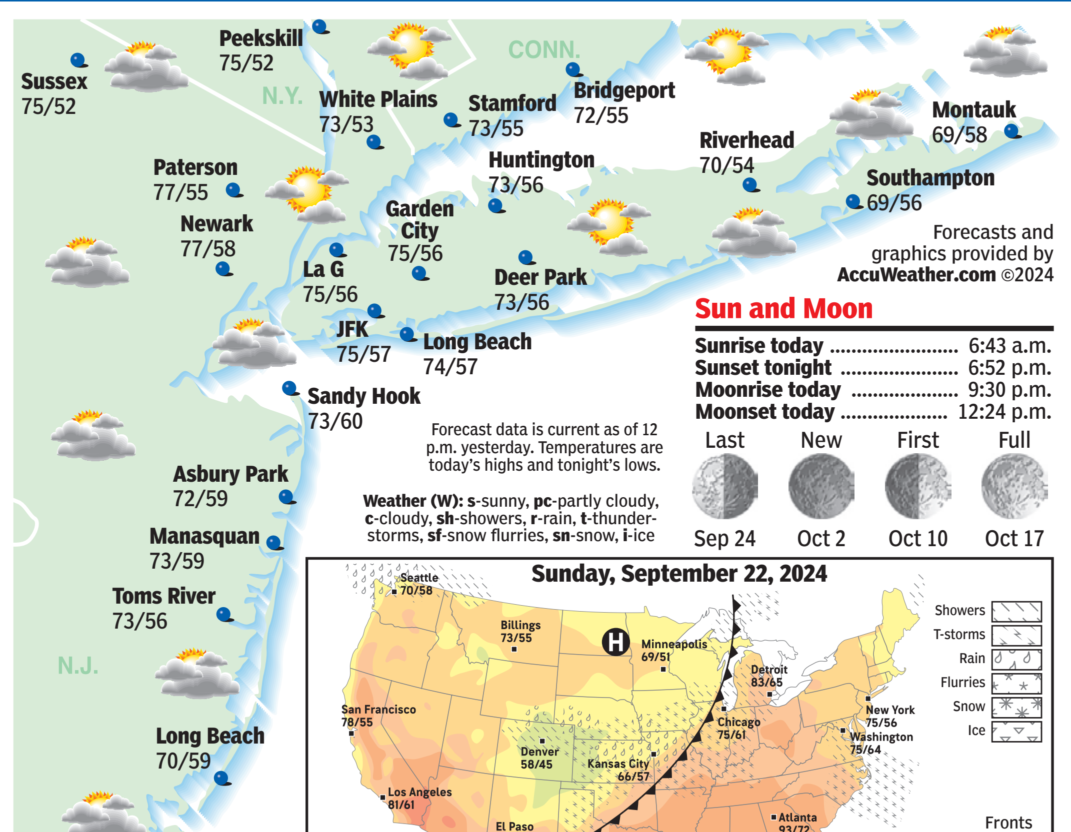
Rather cloudy. High 64 to 70.

Evening Mostly cloudy. Low 56 to 62.

Wednesday

Showers around. High 65 to 71.

Evening Rain, a t-storm. Low 58 to 64.



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2024

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	6:43 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:52 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:30 p.m.
Moonset today	12:24 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Sep 24	Oct 2	Oct 10	Oct 17

Forecast data is current as of 12 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

Temperature
High: 74, Low: 63, Mean: 69

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +1 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 0.24",
Year: 37.14", Normal year to date: 35.99"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 4
Total for the month (normal) 115 (134)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 1315 (1181)
Last year to date 1195
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 74
UV index (for Sun.) .... 3 (Moderate)
Humidity (at noon) 49%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: High Predominant pollen: Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sun.) .... Good

New York Tides

High Tide for	TODAY 1st	TODAY 2nd	TOMORROW 1st	TOMORROW 2nd
Coney Island	11:47a	---	12:20a	12:45p
Fire Island	11:56a	---	12:17a	12:54p
Hempstead	2:55a	3:14p	3:51a	4:12p
Huntington	2:55a	3:15p	3:49a	4:10p
Jones Inlet	11:31a	---	12:04a	12:29p
Montauk Point	12:26a	1:03p	1:25a	2:03p
Port Washington	2:57a	3:15p	3:54a	4:14p
Sandy Hook	11:51a	---	12:24a	12:49p

Regional cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	75/51/pc	70/54/pc
Danbury	72/50/pc	68/52/pc
Glens Falls	73/46/pc	70/50/pc
Gr Barrington	71/47/pc	68/48/pc
Kingston	76/52/pc	71/51/pc
Liberty	69/49/pc	62/50/pc
Monticello	70/48/pc	65/49/pc
Newburgh	76/52/pc	70/53/pc
Poughkeepsie	77/49/pc	71/52/pc
Saratoga Springs	73/50/pc	70/52/pc
Stroudsburg	76/52/pc	68/54/pc
Torrington	71/48/pc	68/51/pc
Syracuse	79/60/pc	73/58/sh

World cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	82/63/c	80/65/pc
Baghdad	107/79/pc	102/77/pc
Beijing	75/50/s	76/53/pc
Berlin	75/49/s	75/55/c
Cairo	89/73/s	87/73/s
Dublin	61/53/r	60/48/c
Geneva	67/56/c	63/50/sh
Hong Kong	87/74/sh	81/72/r
Jerusalem	77/64/pc	78/62/pc
Kabul	93/67/s	94/67/s
London	66/57/t	67/52/sh
Madrid	74/55/pc	76/54/s
Mexico City	77/55/pc	76/54/sh
Montreal	74/58/pc	70/54/pc
Moscow	57/32/s	60/38/s
Paris	65/55/sh	66/56/sh
Rio de Janeiro	83/73/s	86/73/s
Rome	77/62/c	76/64/sh
Sydney	76/54/pc	81/58/s
Tokyo	92/72/c	80/68/pc



OPINIONS & IDEAS

POSTSCRIPT

The world's next-gen commuter ferries P. 38-39



Iranian Americans appreciated Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" policy against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and say Kamala Harris would instead continue President Biden's "appeasement" tactics.

Faced with the prospect of years' more Democratic appeasement, Iranians in the US are lining up behind Trump

REGIME CHANGE

AP; Reuters



JONATHAN HAROUNOFF

THE most-liked Persian-language tweet of all time comes from an unlikely source. The winner is not Ayatollah Khamenei, the Islamic Republic's octogenarian Supreme Leader who has become a regular poster on X of virulently anti-Israel, antisemitic and anti-Western content.

The unlikely winner, in fact, is closer to home. On Jan. 11, 2020, former President Donald Trump tweeted in Farsi his condolences to the "brave and suffering people of Iran" after regime forces shot down Ukrainian International Airlines flight PS752 minutes after taking off from Tehran, killing all 176 people onboard.

The fateful flight, carrying mostly Iranian, Canadian and Ukrainian passengers, took place just hours after Iran launched a ballistic missile attack on Iraqi bases housing American soldiers. Iranian authorities would later concede that the commercial airliner was misidentified as a cruise missile.

At the time of Trump's tweet, which garnered more than 277,000 likes, Iranians had flooded the streets of Iran to protest the regime's targeting of a commercial airliner and called for the ousting of Khamenei. "I have stood with you since the beginning of my presidency and my government will continue to stand with you," Trump pledged to the Iranian people.

Since then, scores of Iranian Americans have returned the favor, praising Trump for understanding the plight of ordinary Iranians and for his aggressive stance toward Tehran's clerical leaders.

Four years on and with the US presidential election less than two months away, a new Iranian-American movement launched in September to help bring Trump back to the White House.

The movement, Iranians for Trump, came about because "there was no established coalition to represent the voices of the Iranian diaspora," Sarah Raviani, co-founder and English-language spokesperson of the movement, told The Post.

Raviani added that most Iranians who had fled from their native Iran around the time of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and settled in the US were mostly either politically inactive, registered Democrats or independents, but Trump's first term drew many to the GOP.

"We support President Trump because he holds the Iranian regime accountable," Raviani said, adding that the aggressive "maximum pressure" Iran policy President Trump adopted in his first term helped keep the regime at bay.

Trump's Iran policy involved imposing debilitating sanctions on the regime and designating the country's armed force, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, a terrorist organization. In January 2020, Trump also ordered the killing of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani, who was seen as the second-most powerful person in Iran after the ayatollah, in charge of its proxies like Hamas and Hezbollah.

One pro-Trump member, Farnaz Murcray, said she supports Trump because he is the only presidential candidate who can guarantee her family's safety. "I joined Iranians for Trump because, as a mother, I want an America that is safe, peaceful and prosperous," Murcray, a real estate agent in northern California who left Iran when she was 10, told The Post.

The Democratic Party, Murcray added, has acquiesced to the Islamic regime with its continuous "appeasement policies of sanction relief and releasing billions of dollars that go on to fund terrorism around the globe."

For Nasim Behrouz, co-founder and Persian-language spokesperson for Iranians for Trump — which is not formally part of the Trump campaign — the Biden administration's Iran policy has failed spectacularly.

"President Biden and Vice President Harris don't understand the regime in Iran," said Behrouz, who was born and raised in Iran, noting that the two previous Democratic administrations sought to open channels of communication with Iran in the naive expectation of behavioral change by the regime. "We've seen weak leadership and appeasement that ended up only enriching the regime."

Reuters

The most liked Farsi tweet is one from Donald Trump supporting protestors against Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Findings from the National Union for Democracy in Iran, a DC-based nonprofit, suggests that aggression — not restraint — is the only language the Islamic Republic understands. Unlike in Trump's first term, executions in Iran, the regime's military spending and its nuclear weapons advancement program all accelerated significantly during the Obama and Biden administrations. In 2023, executions in Iran soared to 838, the highest number in almost a decade, and up from 576 the year prior.

Behrouz noted that she and other like-minded Iranians were drawn to Trump's fighting attitude toward "destructive ideologies, including radical Islamic and far-left ideologies."

Looking ahead to the Nov. 5 presidential elections, Raviani fears that a Harris White House would involve more damaging concessions to Tehran. "The people advising Harris built their careers around a failed Iran policy," she said.

Even as US authorities discovered a plot by Iran to assassinate Trump, "Philip Gordon, Harris's national security advisor, wants to continue negotiating with the regime," Raviani said. "He said regime change isn't a viable option and that we should instead 'contain' the regime. That is appeasement."

Jonathan Harounoff is the author of the forthcoming book "Unveiled: Inside Iran's #WomanLifeFreedom Revolt."

Adoption agencies are still using race to determine who can become a parent — often illegally

Color barriers

"I KNOW you really want to be parents, and I can tell that you would love and dote on the child," Angela Tucker, a consultant for an adoption agency, told Todd and Tammy. "But adopting a Black child requires more than love. I will not be recommending that you proceed with adopting a Black child."



NAOMI SCHAEFER RILEY

Tucker is a black woman who was adopted by a white family and the author of the book "You Should Be Grateful: Stories of Race, Identity, and Transracial Adoption," which chronicles the harms of such placements. She tells this story about Todd and Tammy in a recent Substack column from early September, "What It Felt Like to Stop a White Couple From Adopting a Black Baby."

Tucker, like many caseworkers at adoption agencies, loves to tell white people about how they could never raise a child who doesn't look like them and should feel guilty for even trying. Her approach is not only offensive, it may also place her — and her employers — in legal jeopardy.

According to the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, agencies may not discriminate by race when children are placed for adoption out from foster care. And in cases of private adoption — where a parent decides to voluntarily place a child with another family like Todd and Tammy's — the agency could still be on the hook. First, if it is also receiving federal funds to do adoptions out of foster care, it could lose that funding. Even if it doesn't receive public money, couples like Tammy and Todd may be able to file an "implied cause of action" claim under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, according to Mark Fiddler, an attorney who focuses on adoption and foster care.



Dissuading qualified white parents from adopting black children isn't just a disservice to the kids, it also runs afoul of federal discrimination law.

Adobe Stock

But Tucker and her employer don't seem to realize this or don't care. She offers "a workshop on the realities of racism within child welfare to this and 10 additional white couples hoping to adopt." Topics include redlining housing policies from 100 years ago. Then she meets with each couple privately to assess how many black people they know. Tammy tells her that everyone in her family is white, but a cousin did adopt a black girl.

Angela Tucker writes of giving legally dubious advice urging a white couple at an agency to not adopt a black baby.

Angela Tucker

Tucker writes: "Tammy said this with enthusiasm as though this answer would get her extra credit or a gold star."

Could Tucker be more patronizing toward a couple she says is otherwise qualified to adopt? When the couple tells her that they think race is "secondary," she tells them that "transracial adoptive parents don't have the luxury of being neutral when it comes to race." Maybe not. But adoption agencies are supposed to be.

Despite the laws in place, it is astonishing the degree to which opposition to interracial adoption continues to govern placement decisions. A complaint filed last year with the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services, noted that a county in North Carolina is removing "African-American children from white foster and potential adoptive families based on reasons evidence indicates were related to race." Usually, these decisions are made in hushed tones, but Tucker is far more brazen.

Ryan Hanlon, the president of the National Council for Adoption, notes that "there is an important role for adoption agencies to ensure pre-adoptive homes are safe and meet state laws, but the agency should not be given veto power over birth parents from placing their child with adoptive parents based on race." He calls actions like Tucker's "morally reprehensible."

Of course, there is nothing wrong with providing parents who are adopting transracially with tools to help — classes on how to do black hair, for instance. But the truth is that transracially adopted kids (who made up 28% of adoption between 2017 and 2019) do just fine. An April survey of 1,200 adoptees commissioned by National Council For Adoption found that kids who were adopted by at least one parent who shared the child's race were actually less happy than those who were adopted by parents who were both of a different race."

None of this will affect Tucker and her social-worker friends because the dirty secret is that they don't care about finding loving homes for children.

As Tucker notes, "I do not view my work as passing judgment or merely having an opinion. Instead, I view it as preserving Blackness." Maybe it's time Tucker found a new job.

Chatter



"Our fundamental freedoms are on the ballot and so is our democracy."

— Vice President Kamala Harris on the campaign trail in August



TARGET TRUMP

"Democracy is on the ballot and we cannot lose."

— An X post by Ryan Routh, who allegedly staked out Donald Trump's Palm Beach golf course with an assault rifle

"[Routh] believed the rhetoric… and he acted on it."

— former President Donald Trump

"The timing couldn't look, or be, worse."

— political observer Ken Frydman on the abrupt resignation of Mayor Adams' chief legal counsel, Lisa Zornberg (right)



Chaos in California



Berkeley business owners, struggling amid lawless streets, banded together to insist the city remove vast homeless tent cities.

Berkeley business owners sued the city to take homelessness and vagrancy more seriously — the results are still pending

Jeff DeMartini



JEFF DeMARTINI

BERKELEY, Calif., once a bastion of liberal idealism, currently mirrors the lawlessness of the Wild West. Its streets resemble an open-air drug den, overrun by homeless encampments. Tents block streets and parking, making sidewalks impassable for pedestrians with disabilities. Human waste, syringes and hazardous materials spill directly on private property and in waterways, polluting them. Open-air fires in the middle of public thoroughfares offer scenes more reminiscent of the Great Depression than the prosperous, innovative community associated with the Berkeley name.

This June, the US Supreme Court decided Grants Pass v. Johnson, a ruling that empowers local governments to enforce camping bans in public places, even if there are no alternative spaces available for campers. Since the decision, many elected officials have been slow to use their newfound authority to clear street encampments.

Years ago, Berkeley City Hall decided that it would handcuff its police force, restricting officers from enforcing laws like those against public nuisances that are designed to protect the health and safety of those living and working in the area. Streets today are so unsafe that city staff often refuse to deal in-person with the issues created by these policies, one city representative going so far as to suggest this author carry a gun.

Nearly 500 days ago, the Berkeley City Council gathered to receive feedback from the community. Only half of the council bothered to visit the adjacent encampment before hustling inside. After innumerable emails, calls, public meetings, photos and pleas for help from hundreds of Berkeley stakeholders, the council failed to authorize city workers to clear tents and RVs. Despite eventually claiming they were waiting for the Supreme Court to decide Grants Pass before acting, some of Berkeley's leaders immediately rebuked the decision and stressed the need to maintain the status quo. Ironically, the property that hosted that first community meeting was recently damaged by an out-of-control encampment fire.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, despite filing an amicus curiae brief in Grants Pass in favor of greater enforcement powers and his recent calls for "no more excuses" to remove homeless encampments, didn't help either. In response to a request for help, his office responded that funding for cleanups and care for those who desperately need safer and more compassionate living arrangements must come from Alameda County, not the state. The county, in turn, claimed that it had no funding and pointed to financially strapped Berkeley as the responsible entity.

Those local residents and business owners have repeatedly tried to offer humane and practical solutions. They waited nearly two years for City Hall to relocate illegally parked RVs to a leased lot which could provide health services. Fed up with the city's lack of motivation and success, a group of residents identified a comparable site within weeks, at an annual cost of $200,000. City Hall declined the offer, saying, "We are now flat broke." Meanwhile, it gave the long-time city manager a $600,000 going-away present. Mayor Jesse Arreguín said that he preferred to keep the proposed site for his distant future dream of medical lab space, despite no concrete plans or interest for this development. Today, only weeds occupy the site.

In a final act of desperation to save Berkeley, business owners and other stakeholders filed a lawsuit earlier this month. University of Minnesota law professor Ilan Wurman, who successfully sued Phoenix to clean up its notorious 1,000-person encampment known as "The Zone," represented the plaintiffs.

Last Tuesday evening, just hours after being notified of the lawsuit, Berkeley's council voted 8-1 to pass a new ordinance allowing city workers to remove encampments. Though it remains to be seen whether or how Berkeley will enforce the new law, it marks a major victory for the area's long-suffering and hard-working businesses and property owners.

While it shouldn't have taken a lawsuit to get city leaders to finally act, the quick development should give citizens in similar situations, like in nearby Oakland, hope. Local governments that refuse to remove nuisances from public spaces — for whatever reason — are on notice. No more excuses.

Jeff DeMartini was born in, attended college in and is the third generation of his family to work in Berkeley, Calif. He works in property management and holds an undergrad from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley.

GOING SOUTH

The number of Democrats and Republicans with a favorable opinion of Mexico has declined from a 2017 high.

	2017	2024
Democrats	79%	52%
Republicans	49%	22%

— Pew

"He's as bad as Epstein."

— a source on the arrest of Sean "Diddy" Combs for sex trafficking



"It's thousands of assassination attempts at the same time."

— security analyst Navvar Saban on the coordinated detonation of Hezbollah terrorists pagers that killed 12 people and wounded some 2,800

YOUTH MOVEMENT

The top two nations where people believe kids have the opportunity to learn and grow — and the bottom two.

Country	%
Norway	96%
Cambodia	96%
Comoros	28%
Lebanon	28%

— Gallup

New York Post, Sunday, September 22, 2024 nypost.com

WAVE OF THE FUTURE



ERIC SPITZNAGEL

COMING this fall, residents in Stockholm won't have to endure the hour-long commute by car or train between Ekerö, a popular suburb, and central Stockholm, home to the historic City Hall. Instead, they can jump on a 30-passenger ferry and make the journey in half the time, all while helping to cut down on carbon dioxide emissions.

This isn't your run-of-the-mill diesel ferry. It's the P-12, an electric ferry that hovers just above the surface of the water, like a landspeeder straight out of Star Wars.

Created by Candela, a Swedish company that's been fine-tuning the technology since 2016, the P-12 uses a hydrofoil to lift the boat above the water's surface, reducing drag and the amount of energy needed to operate it. "The hydrofoil system cuts energy consumption by 80% compared to fossil fuel-powered vessels," says Gustav Hemming, vice president of the Regional Executive Board in Stockholm who is responsible for sea-bound public transport. "That number is obviously huge, and a game-changer for waterborne transport."

It's not just better for the environment — a 2022 study by Stockholm's KTH Royal Institute of Technology found that the P-12 emits 97.5% less carbon dioxide emissions than diesel ferries — but also allegedly gives a smoother ride, what Hemming describes as a "magic carpet" experience.

"By flying above the water, the P-12's hull is lifted above the friction from the water," he says. That means less noise, a steadier ride, and none of the diesel fumes that keeps some people away from ferry travel. "The foil technology works much like aircraft wings that provide lift as water flows over them and creates a pressure difference," Hemming adds.

Stockholm won't be the only city with these futuristic ferries. Candela's P-12s will soon be operating in Berlin, Germany, and eight vessels are being built for NEOM, Saudi Arabia's $1.5 trillion "megacity project" for the ultrarich, with a 2025 delivery date.



CANDELA reps were even in New York this past August, offering test rides out of New York Harbor and meeting with potential customers. Could this mean floating ferries are coming to Manhattan soon? Hemming is tight-lipped, saying only that they're "in talks with many private operators around the world, including New York." And "if" it happens, hypothetically, a P-12 trip between Hoboken Terminal and Chelsea Market would take less than three minutes, as opposed to the current half hour journey by car or train.

The electric ferry journey from Staten Island to lower Manhattan, which currently takes around 25 minutes, could be done in 11.

Electric ferries — which run on battery packs charged on land rather than diesel — aren't exactly new. Norway introduced the world's first electric ferry service in 2015. And Finland's ferry system went all-electric in 2017. But the last few years has seen a boom in ferry innovation, with all-electric fleets popping up in countries like Spain, India, Portugal, Denmark, Thailand, and New Zealand. The electric ship market, worth about $4.3 billion globally this year, is projected to grow to nearly $17 billion by 2032, according to Fortune Business Insights.

The San Francisco Bay Ferry system already moves some 8,000 passengers each weekday, and has secured $11 million from the Federal Transit Administration to develop a fleet of sleek electric models like this rendering above.



Gee's Bend Ferry; Candela

The town of Gee's Bend on the Alabama River boasts the first electric ferry in the US, running since 2019, nearly a decade before some larger cities' programs will launch (blue prototype above).

The US has been slow to join the electric ferry revolution. The nation's first electric ferry was introduced in Gee's Bend, Ala., in 2019, and it didn't exactly capture the country's imagination. Several other cities and states have been working to introduce e-ferries, including Washington State, which (after repeated delays because of unexpected costs over the past few years) may finally get their first electric fleet in 2028.

NEW York has had similar problems getting their electric ferry initiatives off the ground, despite being a prime candidate for the technology. The city has set an ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. And Niagara Falls, just seven hours north, has offered a template of what's possible, launching their first all-electric tourist ferries back in 2020.



Zeabuz (2)

In Norway, Zeabuz co-founder and CEO Øyvind Smogeli is deploying an "AI Captain" algorithm at the helm to navigate a first-of-its-kind fully autonomous and emission-free ferry system.

There were promising signs in 2022, when New York Cruise Lines announced a partnership with the Swedish company Green City Ferries. Together, they would build The Beluga24, a high-speed, zero-emission, low-wake ferry capable of holding 147 passengers and 28 bicycles, which would debut at New York Harbor by the spring of 2024. But the launch date came and went, and no ferry materialized.

"We were a bit too early in New York," says Hans Thornell, Green City Ferries' founder and CEO. (Reps from New York Cruise Lines

From New York to Norway, electric ferries will transport commuters faster and cleaner. Will they succeed — or be derailed by regulations?

Green City Ferries; Aurora Marine Design

Candela (2)

Stockholm Regional Executive Board vice president Gustav Hemming tauts the Swedish-made P-12 electric ferries introduced for the city's commuters as using 80% less energy than fossil fuel in half the time.

declined to comment.) He says there were problems with the Harbor's charging infrastructure, and it became increasingly difficult to obtain batteries that "met the MADE IN USA rules."

Thornell is referring to the century-old Jones Act, which stipulates that all boats that transport goods between American ports must be manufactured in the US. "Our Swedish battery supplier Echandia has recently set up a production facility in Washington State," he says. "Now we're just looking for an investor who's interested in emission-free commuting on water."

Not everybody is enthusiastic about the possibilities. Joan Sammon, founder of a boutique oil and gas advisory firm, says that most supporters of "environmentally friendly travel options" like to pretend that the technology "is being built by union workers in Michigan. Far from that reality, the battery industry upon which U.S. and global consumers rely for its 'green battery technology,' including ferries, is almost entirely controlled by China, a Communist country with a stunningly poor record of upholding environmental standards."

EVEN ensuring that all the parts and manufacturing are ethically sourced, there's still the matter of cost. Patrick Finn, a former maritime technology analyst who now works as a harbormaster in Newport, Maine, says that the reason countries like Denmark, Sweden, and Norway are leading the electric ferry race is because they have "one of the longest running taxation schemes for air pollution." Their governments "support cutting edge innovation through grants and encourage companies to take on risk and experiment," he says.

At least in some parts of the US, that's starting to change. In California, the San Francisco Bay Ferry, a public transit passenger ferry service which carries around 8,000 passengers every weekday, recently secured an $11 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to build high-speed electric ferries.

"This program will help the United States catch up with the rest of the world when it comes to reducing maritime greenhouse gas emissions," says Tom Hall, the company's director of operations. While the expense of building the first fleet won't be small — they hope to launch SF Bay Ferry's first electric vessel commercially in 2026 — Hall expects



Getty Images

Saudi Arabia's wildly ambitious Neom city-of-the-future project aims to have electric ferries of its own delivered in 2025.

that in the long run, the operational costs of electric vessels "will be lower than our current diesel fleet."

THAT may not be true if the technology continues to get more sophisticated. Last summer, Norway tech company Zeabuz unveiled the MF Estelle, the world's first fully autonomous emission-free ferry. Along with maritime radar, LiDAR, and a maritime-specific AIS transponder, the ferry is operated by an "AI Captain" algorithm, says Zeabuz co-founder and CEO Øyvind Smogeli.

The AI Captain is trained using an advanced simulator or "virtual world," which includes a wide range of operational scenarios. Its navigation skills are "safer and more efficient than the average human captain," Smogeli tells The Post. "With over 80% of all accidents at sea being due to human error, an 'AI Captain' does not have to be perfect for it to save a lot of lives."

In Denmark, another groundbreaking e-ferry called the Ellen is setting the bar even higher. Introduced in 2019 (at a cost of $23.6 million, about 40% more than traditional ships), the Ellen is capable of traveling further than most electric ferries — 22 nautical miles — and carrying up to 200 passengers and 30 cars. It's also got a massive amount of power, over 50 times the battery capacity of a Tesla. And according to a BBC report, it could single-handedly reduce CO2 emissions by 2,000 tons every year.

But Hemming insists that bigger isn't always better, especially when it comes to electric ferries. Most ferries built for intra-city or coastal transport are capable of carrying 300 or more passengers, he says, but they don't usually fill all of their seats.

"In Stockholm, vessels typically carry 10% of their passenger capacity.," he says. "So fuel and money is spent on shuttling around a lot of empty seats." With the P-12 big enough to carry just 30 passengers, it's also more affordable to build, so cities can afford a bigger fleet of ships. "Think of the P-12 like a city bus on the water," Hemming says.

Sooner or later, he says, electric ferries are coming to cities like New York, and they're going to change the way people use public transportation. "It'll be a paradigm shift in the maritime industry, much like when cars and buses replaced boats in transport," Hemming says. "Now it's the other way around — we'll see a comeback for transport on our waterways."

NEW YORK POST
AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

Schrodinger's Candidate

As San Francisco DA, as a senator and in her run for the 2020 Democratic prez nomination, Kamala Harris backed the decriminalization of prostitution — and won't say if she's changed her mind on this insane idea.

Well, that's one flip-flop she hasn't *officially* made yet. Which is too bad, because like all soft-on-crime positions, it would be legally and morally disastrous, especially combined with the illegal immigration tidal wave she played a central role in unleashing.

And she's clearly keeping mum for tactical reasons, refusing request after request from this paper for a simple clarification of her current views.

The whole sordid affair points up what is by far the most concerning thing about her current candidacy: No one has any idea what she really believes.

Look at the "sex change operations for illegal immigrants" story. Harris in 2019 clearly and unambiguously backed having Uncle Sam pay to provide sex-change operations to border-jumpers detained in ICE facilities. When Donald Trump called her out on this during their debate, the campaign responded with a word salad *suggesting* she's changed her mind but by no means stating it clearly, and providing zero details about her current position.

Or look at a much bigger-scale issue, fracking. Again — Harris previously, unambiguously, said she supported banning it. Now? *Seemingly* she's OK with it, but there's little reason to believe that's anything other than a desperate bid to win Pennsylvania, where the issue looms large.

Last week she revealed she supports holding Israel hostage with military-aid freezes until it agrees to a cease-fire (i.e. a surrender to Hamas). How long till she flops on that as well?

And on and on and on.

Most likely, Harris will always default to her roots in the San Francisco machine: She *is* the radical her entire past history reveals her to be, not the sensible moderate her campaign and its media lapdogs are now trying to sell her as.

Despite her inability to formulate a meaningful answer to any question without a teleprompter, Harris clearly realizes that backing far-left policies — like sex changes for illegals — is a short route to electoral disaster. So she means to fake to the center all the way to Election Day.

She may get away with it, since most of the media has zero interest in holding her feet to the fire — quite the contrary.

She's Schrodinger's Candidate, that is. We won't *know* if she's a far-left extremist or a middle-of-the-road Dem unless we vote her in.

Sure sounds to us like an attempt to subvert democracy by deceiving America. But remember: Donald Trump's the real "threat."

A Supreme Smear

In an ugly escalation of the left's war on the Supreme Court, The New York Times last week did a hit on Chief Justice John Roberts, falsely charging him with "deploying his authority to steer rulings that benefited" Donald Trump in "a momentous trio of Jan. 6-related cases."

Plus, the story relied in part on leaks of confidential court documents — which means court staff, at least, are actively *helping* the progressive attack.

The smear itself was pathetic: The Times' Jodi Cantor and Adam Liptak claim Roberts boosted Trump in three cases:

- One (slapping down Colorado's attempt to keep Trump off its ballot) was decided 9-0, showing Trump needed no help: The issues were clear even to the three liberal justices.
- The second wasn't really about Trump, but whether prosecutors improperly charged 250 Capitol rioters with "obstructing an official proceeding." It wound up 6-3, with Justices Ketanji Brown Jackson and Amy Coney Barrett "switching sides" to vote with the opposite "blocks."

Cantor and Liptak mainly obsess on an oddity: Roberts assigned the task of writing the majority opinion to Justice Sam Alito, but later took it on himself. Yet the Times reporters themselves note that the switch came after lefties claimed Alito should recuse himself, suggesting Roberts was simply trying to avoid needless controversy.

- Only the third decision truly "helped Trump": the ruling on presidential immunity. Yet the main way Roberts "deployed his authority" was by agreeing with the court's *liberals* to take up Trump's appeal of a lower-court ruling *immediately*, rather than wait 'til October. And Roberts made his view of the root issues crystal-clear in a confidential February memo to his colleagues — a memo that, per Cantor and Liptak, "several people from the court" later discussed with the reporters.

Such leaking is a *far* larger violation of high-court ethics than any of the lefty complaints of recent years: How can the court even *function* if the justices can't communicate frankly with each other?

And suspicion has to fall on Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Cantor and Liptak paint her as very upset that Roberts passed on her effort to find some compromise — though his February memo spelled out where he was *always* going to wind up.

This follows extensive "ethics" smears on Justices Clarence Thomas and Sam Alito. Yet there's no ethics storm about, say, KJB's $3 million book deal, nor Sotomayor's even *larger* book income.

Bad enough that this campaign has reduced public faith in the Supreme Court — the only branch of the federal government that's *not* badly dysfunction these days. Worse that the leaks to the Times indicate that the rabid insanity is starting to infect the high court itself.

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DOLLARS

Kamala Harris has developed a conflict-free portfolio, while Donald Trump's finance focus is on maintaining his more opaque generational wealth.

MEGAN GORMAN

ON Sept. 23, 1952, Richard Nixon was in a quandary. Rumors abounded that he had misused $18,000 of campaign funds, and presidential candidate Dwight Eisenhower considered dropping him as his VP nominee. Nixon's solution? A bold move to address the nation on television.

In what became known as the "Checkers Speech," Nixon sought to earn the trust of the American public by taking the unprecedented step of sharing his net worth: a $41,000 home in Washington, DC with a $20,000 mortgage, a $13,000 house in California with a $3,000 mortgage, no stocks and bonds, and a small life insurance policy. "It isn't very much," he added, "But Pat and I have the satisfaction that every dime that we've got is honestly ours."



It was enough to win back both Ike and the American public.

While Nixon's speech may seem quaint today, it reinforces a timeless truth: The personal finances of our presidents should matter in how we assess them.

Today, Americans are far more cynical about political figures. A recent Pew Research Center study found that 63% of Americans believe elected officials chose their careers to make money. Furthermore, 80% feel that members of Congress poorly separate their personal financial interests from their work.

These poll numbers are unsurprising given the steady stream of politicians caught in financial scandals. A candidate's personal finances can provide insight into their values and are therefore a legitimate subject of inquiry when gauging their fitness for office.

Kamala Harris and being a good Girl Scout

Kamala Harris' finances show the diligence of someone who takes the matter very seriously. The evolution of her finances from her first senatorial campaign in 2016 to the vice presidency in 2020 to presidential candidate reflects someone whose financial details are not only well organized but also conflict free. Her husband has given up his lucrative law job and partnership. Harris's investment portfolio is a fully diversified ETF (Exchange-Traded Fund) portfolio demonstrating that she is participating in the capital markets but not taking advantage of any data she might have access to due to her position.

She's not the first presidential candidate to feel the need to be perfect. Calvin Coolidge was a successful attorney, yet for the majority of his life, he and his wife Grace rented a house because he wanted to be conflict free and not beholden to a bank. Even in his later years, when approached by Charles Merrill to join the board of Merrill Lynch, he turned down the $100,000-a-year salary claiming he didn't know enough about banking and finance to provide value.

Another indication of Harris' financial sensibilities is the fact that she and her husband share a joint revocable trust. This pools their assets, which makes it easier to manage them than if they were kept separate.

Donald Trump's aspirational lifestyle and golden opportunities

The slow, steady, conflict free approach taken by Harris has nevertheless allowed her to build wealth. Yet this quiet diligence might be mistaken for a lack of financial savvy because so many Americans are more impressed by the financial flashiness — if not success — of candidates like Donald Trump.

& SENSE

At a moment of peak political uncertainty, a candidate's financial health can reveal their potential governing style



Adobe Stock; Getty Images (2)

One big financial difference between Harris and her opponent is that Trump is the second generation of his family to have a significant level of wealth. His job seems straightforward: maintain what he inherited from Generation 1 (his father) and get it down to Generation 3 (his children). This is a lot easier said than done — when these families are studied, there is a reason for the saying "shirtsleeves to shirtsleeves in three generations."

It's no surprise that with his financial values and priorities, Trump passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), which increased the amount we can pass free of estate tax from $5 million per person to $10 million per person plus inflation. Trump is far savvier than Harris at delivering tax soundbites that appeal to wealthier voters as we are seeing with his recent comments about returning the SALT deduction to taxpayers.

Yet we are a nation wary of self-serving politicians, and Trump's opacity regarding his personal finances doesn't play well outside of his base. His historic lack of transparency can be interpreted by his opponents that he may have something to hide.

Other wealthy presidents have accepted that transparency is part of the process.

When Fortune published an article in August 1932 called "The President's Fortune," Herbert Hoover was frustrated and embarrassed that his financial details were in the public space, but he also understood it was part of the process.

Reflection of values

While national monetary policy is shaped by thousands of people in government, a president's personal finances are something directly under their own control and are therefore a reflection of their values. With the election looming, any voters who are still undecided should take a good, hard look at the candidates' different financial profiles and decide which one would make the better steward of our country's fiscal health. Nixon said in his Checkers speech, "A man that's to be President of the United States . . . must have the confidence of all the people." And nothing builds confidence — even for presidents — like financial health.

Megan Gorman is a tax attorney, wealth manager and author of "All the Presidents' Money."

CHATTER

Screen sick

Dr. Robert Fryer's primer on migraines was nice ("Pain on the brain," Sept. 16).

Certainly hunger, dehydration, stress and lack of sleep are migraine triggers. But I believe he missed a major one: screens.

After a decade of suffering from severe migraines, I was able to track through a headache diary that showed my main trigger is phone and computer screens. Today, in order to survive, I do not keep a cell phone, and I can't look at a computer screen for more than 10-to-15 minutes per day due to eye damage from screens.

I regularly preach to parents whose children are on a computer at school (and also on their phones) for eight hours a day and then doing homework on a computer to tell them take breaks every 20 minutes and to wear blue-light-blocking glasses.

My eye doctor has also seen an increase in eye- and brain-pain disorders since screens have become indispensable.

B. Mantz, Princeton, N.J.

DEI doctor danger

Jay P. Greene exposes what is being taught to our future physicians in medical school, where diversity, equity and inclusion is apparently taking precedence over medical subjects ("Top Medical Schools Putting Politics First," PostOpinion, Sept. 16).

Medical advances have been achieved by relying on evidence-based approaches to develop therapies. Where are the studies showing that poorer outcomes in certain ethnic groups are due to racism and not economic status? Have there been studies comparing outcomes in poor Caucasians versus poor African-Americans or affluent African-Americans versus affluent Caucasians?

Is there any consideration of the fact that poorer outcomes in African-American women with breast cancer may be perhaps due to the fact that they have an increased incidence of triple-negative breast cancer, which carries a worse prognosis? Our medical schools must realize that their function is to produce competent, caring physicians, not political activists.

Seymour Cohen, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, Ichan School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Manhattan

Kam's Israel hate

I am so tired of hearing Vice President Kamala Harris ranting about a cease-fire in the Middle East conflict ("Kam's Awful on Israel," Adam Brodsky, PostOpinion, Sept. 19).

All she's concerned about is the dignity and self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Israel left Gaza two decades ago — and left greenhouses and other equipment for the people of Gaza to improve their lives. The Palestinians elected Hamas as their government, and it is still in power. They determined their destination.

How about demanding the return of the hostages, both living and deceased? It is almost a year since the invasion started.

Vietnam has become a tourist attraction. Gaza could have been the same if their leaders had built up the area. It's Hamas that has kept them in squalor.

So it's time for Harris to stop blaming Israel for the destruction of a terrorist group.

Sylvia Kane, Brooklyn

Pride challenge

Members of "Queers for Palestine" are impervious to reality ("Calling Out 'Queers for Palestine,'" Editorial, Sept. 18).

In addition to parading in Gaza or the West Bank, as Gregory T. Angelo brilliantly challenges them to do, "Queers for Palestine" should enter Hamas' tunnels to discuss the cultural origins of homophobia in the Islamic world with the cowards who hold hostage, behead babies, rape, torture and execute women and men. I'm sure the Hamas-niks will welcome these allies with open arms.

David Rabinovitz, Brooklyn



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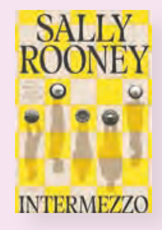
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REQUIRED READING

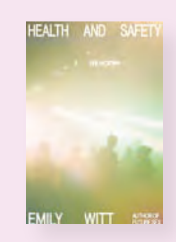
by Hailey Eber



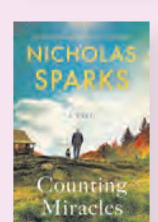
Intermezzo: A Novel
Sally Rooney (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
The fourth novel from the literary "it" girl is being hailed as her best yet. Two very different brothers grieve their father's death. Peter is a successful, thirty-something Dublin lawyer juggling two different women. Ivan is a chess-playing loner in his early twenties who gets wrapped up with an older lady.



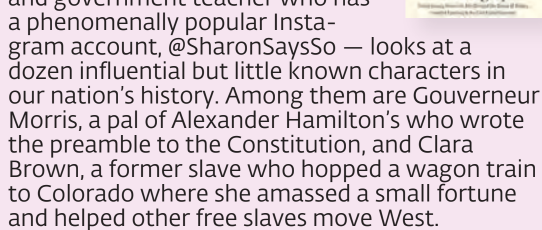
Playground: A Novel
Richard Powers (W. W. Norton & Company)
Powers, who won a Pulitzer Prize for 2018's "The Overstory," is back with an ambitious book that explores the ocean, the future of AI, climate change and much more. Four lives come together on a small Polynesian island amidst plans to colonize the sea with massive floating cities.



Health and Safety: A Breakdown
Emily Witt (Pantheon)
In this buzzy memoir, a New Yorker writer tells of going off antidepressants and falling into Brooklyn's underground club scene in the years leading up to the pandemic.



Counting Miracles: A Novel
Nicholas Sparks (Random House)
In the latest from the romance master, an Army Ranger tries to track down the father he never knew after his beloved grandmother dies. But, first he meets a complicated single mom that he's immediately drawn to.



The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement
Sharon McMahon (Thesis)
McMahon — a high school law and government teacher who has a phenomenally popular Instagram account, @SharonSaysSo — looks at a dozen influential but little known characters in our nation's history. Among them are Gouverneur Morris, a pal of Alexander Hamilton's who wrote the preamble to the Constitution, and Clara Brown, a former slave who hopped a wagon train to Colorado where she amassed a small fortune and helped other free slaves move West.

What in the World?!
Leanne Morgan (Convergent Books)
The comedian from Tennessee is having a breakout moment — in her late 50s. Her Netflix special was one of the platform's most streamed comedy specials in 2023. With her new book, she continues to find humor in being a woman in late middle age navigating diet trends, menopause, rock concerts and much more.



How Elon's rocket startup

by ALEX TAPSCOTT

IN 2005, three years before its first successful orbital launch, a fledgling space startup called SpaceX petitioned the US government to let it use the storied Cape Canaveral launchpad, once home to the Apollo space program. Old-school space companies like Boeing and Lockheed Martin bristled at the idea and lobbied aggressively to block the deal.

Executives at those firms had a dim view of the company and resented founder Elon Musk. "He was not deferential, but brash," writes Eric Berger in his new book, "Reentry: SpaceX, Elon Musk, and the Reusable Rockets that Launched a Second Space Age," summing up the feeling at the time, "Do you really want to let this guy onto the holy grounds of America's largest and oldest spaceport?"

Their efforts failed, and SpaceX got access to the Cape.

Less than two decades later, Berger writes, "Elon Musk and his rocket company now stand alone, atop the hierarchy of spaceflight." The company's workhorse Falcon launch vehicle, the first commercial reusable rocket and the inspiration for the book's title, now delivers more orbital payloads than the governments of Russia, China and private-sector competitors like Boeing and Lockheed Martin combined.

NASA relies almost exclusively on SpaceX to ferry astronauts and supplies to the International Space Station (ISS). The company's Starlink satellites can deliver internet to almost anyone anywhere in the world, including to the battlefields of Ukraine. Its Starship rocket is the largest to ever fly and may someday ferry astronauts to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

SPACEX recently completed the world's first ever commercial spacewalk, and in a bit of poetic justice, when Boeing's troubled Starliner spacecraft ran into technical difficulties in August of this year on its own journey to the ISS, SpaceX got the call to bail them out and bring the astronauts safely home.

SpaceX has steamrolled everyone. David has become Goliath, says Berger.

Over the decades, Berger writes, the world has changed its mind about Elon Musk, SpaceX's founder. He began as a strange curiosity, then a widely admired entrepreneur, and today he is now a deeply divisive figure whose political views and business ties, says Berger, might eventually put him at odds with the U.S. government, forcing a "reckoning."

How did this all happen?

Reentry picks up where Berger's first book Liftoff left off, in the lead up to the first launch of the Falcon 9 rocket. The book reveals much about what made SpaceX so successful.

The first reason is Elon Musk, whose singular vision and hard-driving leadership propelled SpaceX through its many ups and downs. It was Musk, for example, who pushed relentlessly for SpaceX to master reusable rockets, despite industry doubters and the grumblings of his own engineers. It was Musk who decided to announce the Starship project (a k a the Mars mission) and launch the Starlink satellite network at the same time.

Elon Musk's SpaceX has gone from a "brash" upstart to ferrying more missions to space than Russia, China and private-sector competitors like Boeing and Lockheed Martin combined.



The transition from the George W. Bush administration to Barack Obama's was pivotal for SpaceX as it began to work with NASA.

IT was also Musk who revolutionized the economics of space. Previously, it was a "cost-plus" industry, Berger says, where companies bid on projects and got paid even if the work was massively over budget or overdue. SpaceX changed that model by bringing a startup mentality to the industry. As former SpaceX executive John Couluris recounts, "we were scrappy."

The second reason for its success is the people. SpaceX's many brilliant engineers and business leaders would spend mornings negotiating with NASA, and afternoons, nights and weekends troubleshooting endless technical challenges. Gwynne Shotwell, one of SpaceX's first employees and a senior executive, negotiated and won a cargo development contract from NASA in 2006, which financially saved SpaceX, setting it on a path for future success.

Then there was Holly Ridings, a NASA flight director who oversaw the SpaceX capsule Dragon's first docking with ISS in May of 2012, making a gutsy call in the middle of the flight with everything on the line that paid off. She later became NASA's first female chief flight director. The list goes on.

As the company racked up pioneering firsts, it became the number one



Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

NASA aided SpaceX with the launch of the first Falcon 9 rocket in 2010, and came to rely on the company at the space shuttle program's end.

defied Boeing & launched a 21st-century space race

X MARKS THE SPOT

Reuters; NASA via Getty Images

The crew of the International Space Station in April 2021, nearly a decade after a SpaceX Dragon capsule (left) successfully reached the orbiting lab for the first time in 2012.

AP; Polaris Program/AFP via Getty Images

destination for brilliant and aspiring rocketeers who both wanted to build stuff — and were motivated by SpaceX's mission to make humanity an interplanetary species.

THE final reason for the company's success was its relationship with NASA. While SpaceX relied on NASA in the early days for its first contracts, NASA was relying on them too. With the Shuttle spacecraft being decommissioned, the new Obama administration placed a bet on believing SpaceX could do things better. NASA Deputy Administrator Lori Garver said of the first Falcon 9 launch in 2010, "I was well aware that not only my own reputation, but the success or failure of the Obama Administration's space policy, would be largely determined by the outcome of the SpaceX launch."

NASA's support extended beyond funding. NASA engineers worked in close partnership with SpaceX from the first Falcon 9 launch to the first unmanned Dragon capsule to the Dragon Crew which ferried astronauts to the ISS. NASA and SpaceX have a "fantastically fruitful relationship" that's lasted decades, says Berger.

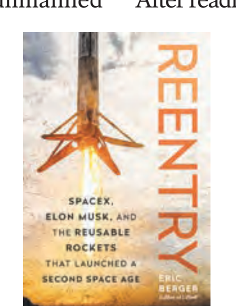
In the second half of the book, the company really starts hitting its stride. To be sure, there were setbacks, notably two (non-fatal) disasters that grounded its Falcon 9 for more than a year, but overall, the rate of progress from 2012 until today was remarkable: In the last decade, the company mastered reusable rockets, launched Starlink, built and flew the biggest rocket ever, and began ferrying astronauts to the ISS.

MUSK remains at center stage throughout, pushing his team and reminding them of the bigger mission. "We are not going to Mars in my lifetime, or yours, if we don't get our act together and take this first step," Musk said after another failed attempt at re-entry..

For all the well-earned controversy about Musk, one can't question his sincerity around space. He is clearly driven by a bigger purpose: if SpaceX makes a boatload of money, but doesn't reach Mars, the company has failed, in Musk's eyes. Nothing feels unachievable at SpaceX, which is perhaps why it appears capable of doing the impossible.

Berger is a veteran space reporter and the senior space editor at the tech news site Ars Technica with a scientific mind who clearly relishes the technical nuts and bolts of rocketry. Readers will learn how SpaceX keeps rocket fuel in a stable state, so it doesn't explode on the launchpad and how to recover a capsule from the ocean without losing the spacecraft at sea. You'll learn how adjustable "Grid-fins" help stabilize the spacecraft on re-entry and how laser guidance systems (LIDAR) can help two spacecraft dock seamlessly as they hurtle through space. Or how to 3D print a space helmet and how to manufacture rocket fuel on Mars.

Reentry is a blast (pun intended), but it ends on a cautionary note. SpaceX has not lost its founder mentality, Berger writes, but he worries Musk may be getting distracted from the bigger mission. Referring to Musk's Twitter purchase and his recent inflammatory political comments, Berger asks, "What the hell are you doing, Elon?" After reading about what Musk was able to achieve in the two decades before buying Twitter, you may find yourself asking the same thing.



Alex Tapscott, author of Web3: Charting the Internet's Next Economic and Cultural Frontier and Managing Director of the Digital Asset Group, a division of Ninepoint Partners LP

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INVISIBLE TERROR

Reinhold Kulle and his family left Germany for the US in 1957. He was one of some 10,000 Nazis living in the States in the postwar years.

Courtesy of William Earle

How a former Nazi death-camp guard arrived in America and hid for decades in plain sight

by GAVIN NEWSHAM

ON Oct. 26, 1957, Reinhold Kulle and his family departed on the MS Italia from Cuxhaven, Germany, destined for a new life in America.

But as Michael Soffer reveals in "Our Nazi: An American Suburb's Encounter with Evil" (University of Chicago Press), Kulle carried a dark secret.

Throughout World War II, Kulle had not only been a member of the Nazi's Waffen-SS, but had worked at Gross-Rosen concentration camp where 40,000 Jews died.

Kulle was one of around 10,000 Nazis who entered the US after the war and, like others, blended into his community, his neighbors oblivious to his past.

Born in 1921, Kulle was a member of the Hitler Youth before volunteering for the combat wing of the Waffen-SS in 1940. "Other boys in the Hitler Youth were wary of joining the SS, alarmed at the prospect of committing atrocities," writes Soffer. "Kulle was undeterred."

Having joined the army, Kulle was injured fighting the Russians and was transferred to Gross-Rosen in his native Silesia, excusing him from frontline action.

Gross-Rosen was meant to be a labor camp, not a killing center like Auschwitz-Birkenau or Treblinka. But it wasn't so.

"A compromise was forged among Nazi leadership: they would murder the old, the young, the sick and weak, and any Jews who remained capable of exploitation would be sent to labor camps like Gross-Rosen," he writes. "Then they, too, would be murdered."

Kulle rose through the ranks at Gross-Rosen, overseeing the construction of a new crematorium. But by spring 1944, overcrowding meant there were over 40,000 prisoners instead of a maximum of 13,000.

"The sewage system was overwhelmed, and fecal matter flowed into the stream that supplied prisoners' drinking water," writes Soffer. "Even the new crematorium couldn't keep up."

When the war ended in 1944, Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act (DPA) in 1948, making access to America easier for immigrants.

Kulle saw an opportunity. After obtaining a visa, Kulle, wife Gertrud and children Ulricke and Rainer were granted permission to enter the United States.

After they docked in New York in 1957, they headed to Oak Park, near Chicago, where, in 1959, he took a job as custodian at Oak Park and River Forest (OPRF) HS.

He was the perfect employee. Reliable and hard-working, nothing was too much trouble for Kulle and in 1963 he was promoted to chief night custodian. "At the high school, Kulle was indispensable," writes Soffer. "He was every faculty member's go-to."

Soon, Kulle and his family moved into a bungalow. "He slipped into obscurity, just another blue-collar worker in Middle America with a thick accent and an untold past," adds Soffer. He wasn't the only neighborhood Nazi.

Albert Deutscher lived in nearby Brookfield. During the war, Deutscher "had shot and killed hundreds of unarmed Jews, including children," adds Soffer. "His neighbors never suspected a thing."

In December 1981, the Office of Special Investigations (OSI), established to expel Nazi war criminals, formally accused Deutscher of war crimes and falsifying his visa application. Hours later, Deutscher stepped in front of a train. While Deutscher's neighbors expressed disbelief, Kulle knew the net was closing in.

In the summer of 1981, OSA investigators began "DORA" ("dead or alive") checks on suspected Nazis, including "a former camp guard from German Silesia: Reinhold Kulle." In July 1982, Kulle, now 61, received his first OSI correspondence and when he met with prosecutor Bruce Einhorn, he knew the game was up.

They had everything, from Kulle's personal SS file to his handwritten marriage application detailing his Nazi credentials. "They even had photos of Kulle in his SS uniform," adds Soffer.

Kulle maintained all he did was escort prisoners around Gross-Rosen and he had never killed anyone. But he had lied on his visa application. That alone was grounds for deportation.

When, on Dec. 4, 1982, the Chicago Sun-Times ran the story "Deportation Bid on Suburb Man," the game was up. "After decades of practiced quiet, Kulle's secret was now public."

In November 1984, Judge Olga Springer ordered Kulle's deportation — but it would be nearly three years before the decision was affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

On Oct. 26, 1987, Kulle was taken to Chicago's O'Hare Airport and boarded a plane to West Germany.

"He landed at 12:45 a.m. on Tuesday morning and headed to a relative's home in Lahr, the city he left thirty years earlier," writes Soffer. He died in Germany in 2006.

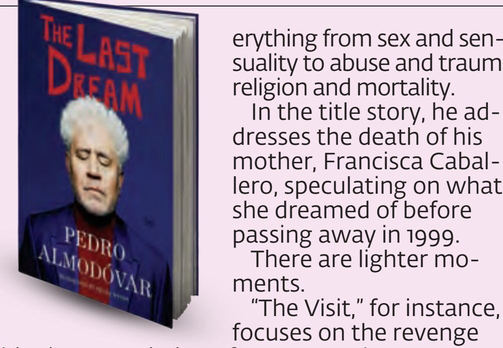
BUZZ BOOK: World of Almodóvar

Over the course of his 50 years in cinema, Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar has been offered countless deals from publishers to write his memoir — but he has always rejected them, as the two-time Oscar-winner explains in his new book "The Last Dream" (HarperVia).

"I've been asked to write my autobiography more than once, and I've always refused," he writes in the introduction. "I've never kept a diary, and whenever I've tried, I've never made it to page two; in a sense, then, this book represents something of a paradox.

"It might be best described as a fragmentary autobiography, incomplete and a little enigmatic."

Featuring 12 short stories selected from his decades of personal writings, some dating back as far as the late 60s, "The Last Dream" is a more than adequate substitute for a fully-formed memoir. The book reflects not just on Almodóvar's life and career as a film-maker but also some of his particular fixations, most of which will doubtless be familiar to his cinema fans.



Surprising and surreal, it tackles everything from sex and sensuality to abuse and trauma, religion and mortality.

In the title story, he addresses the death of his mother, Francisca Caballero, speculating on what she dreamed of before passing away in 1999.

There are lighter moments.

"The Visit," for instance, focuses on the revenge mission of a transgender woman while "Confessions of a Sex Symbol" sees Almodóvar revisit one of his older characters, the high-end porn star from Madrid Patty Diphusa.

"The Mirror Ceremony," meanwhile, sees Almodóvar's humor come to the fore, with the gothic tale of a weary Count Dracula seeking solace in an Italian monastery.

"The Last Dream" is a heady mix of the profound and the absurd.

In other words, just what you might expect from a creative force like Pedro Almodóvar.

"This collection of stories (I call everything a story, I don't distinguish between genres) demonstrates the intimate relationship between what I write, what I film, what I live," he says.

— David C. Kaufman

Sunday Break



"Spanglish" By Zhouqin Burnikel

Across

1 Hoity-toity type
5 "Poker Face" singer Lady __
9 Berth place
14 Former TV drama set in SoCal
19 Anecdotal tales
20 Genesis garden
21 Code breaker?
22 Fill with joy
23 Number of NBA championships won by Bill Russell?
26 Island near Java
27 Baby panda
28 Dr. with a dream
29 Video game where players round up primates
31 Early console letters
32 Office assistant
34 Remove from a page
35 Stimulate, as curiosity
38 Heaven for basic seasoning lovers?
41 NFL gains: Abbr.
44 Decisive win
45 School book fair org.
46 In __: harmonized
47 Song that was never a single
49 Soul great Redding
50 Rabbit kin
52 Annoyed
54 Words of surprise
55 Prohibit
56 Introduction for a cartoon hamburger?
59 Detergent powder
60 Miracle-Gro alternative
62 "Feels so good!"
63 Pluto, for one
65 People unlikely to develop crushes, briefly
66 Skin care product long used by Aboriginal people in Australia
68 Seller of Souls
70 Amazes an audience
72 Spun records
73 Goose egg
75 College domain
77 Steering gear component
79 Some facials
80 Carb choice of Olympic marathon runners?
83 Cry noisily
85 Result of a good pitch
86 South American barbecue
88 Olympic event whose name comes from the French for "sled"
89 Caramel candy
90 Full of bluster
92 Writer/illustrator Carle
95 N's on sorority row
96 Balls, in dodgeball
97 Hog hangout
98 Typical posture for a cancan dancer?
101 Think pieces
102 Expels, as lava
103 "__ smokes!"
104 Reggae kin
105 Coverage of regional events
109 Texting nicety
110 Many Mount Everest mountaineers
114 "Yes we can" sloganeer of 2008
115 Representative for Buckingham Palace, say?
118 "Never needs sharpening" brand
119 Some British peers
120 Actress Falco
121 Cosmetics chain
122 Place
123 Constellation that resembles a serpent
124 Emporium
125 Tree house?

Down

1 Messy houseguest
2 Second to __
3 Mammal that can sink a boat
4 Happy hour snacks
5 Family division
6 Very little
7 Goo in a reusable ice pack
8 Kangaroo or koala
9 One of a calendar quintet
10 Menopause treatment, briefly
11 Diva's chance to shine
12 Frolicked
13 Full scholarship, informally
14 "Hmm ... "
15 White Rabbit pursuer
16 Tibetan spiritual leader
17 Resting on
18 "Wish you __ here"
24 Slushy summer treat
25 Acrobatic feats
30 Made simpler
33 Bert's roommate
35 "No __!": "Happy to help!"
36 Tiny bits
37 Sweet spread for a teen's birthday celebration?
38 Doesn't go out
39 Org. that fights age bias
40 Bitter-tasting
41 Gene carrier that keeps people wanting more?
42 "The Black Tulip" novelist
43 River of Hades
45 Pinterest upload
48 Not as flush
51 Noteworthy period
53 Have down pat
56 Hoops alternative
57 Whiskey barrel wood
58 Man of steal
59 Contingent (on)
61 Tamagoyaki, e.g.
64 Reliable sort
67 "Illusion" singer Dua __
69 Commotion
71 Sneaky tricks
72 Gave a hand
74 Heavily loaded
76 Link destination
78 Stuffed grape leaf
79 Ads that raise awareness
81 Needle point?
82 Icky, sticky stuff
84 Sounds of disapproval
86 Visitor from outer space
87 Way to serve satay
89 Speed trap device
91 Give a hand
93 "Fingers crossed!"
94 Minesweeper units
99 "Fingers not crossed!"
100 Honor __
101 Store with a Swedish House Mafia collaboration
102 Kafka protagonist
104 Paper tray unit
105 Enters in a record book
106 Final bio
107 Walking stick
108 Mystery writer Paretsky
110 Awaken
111 Soccer legend nicknamed "O Rei"
112 Insects who prefer sweet foods
113 "Right now!"
116 Business letters
117 Oral health org.

Post SU DOKU

You must put a number, from 1 to 9, in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.

Super Su Doku, inside, multiplies the challenge — and your enjoyment. For that one, put a number from 1 to 12 in each empty box, making sure each number appears once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-4 grids. Tips and in-depth strategies at www.SudokuWiki.org. For more Su Doku puzzles, see tomorrow's New York Post.

Very Easy #6,679

3		1	5		4	9		
							7	
2			8			4	1	
6	7			5				9
1	2			9			4	6
8				4			2	3
	3	8			7			1
	6							
		5	4		2	6		7

Difficult #6,469

		8			9	5		7
7	6						3	
3					7			1
				3	5			
		6				7		
			1	6				
1			8					9
	5						4	3
2		3	9			1		

Challenging #469

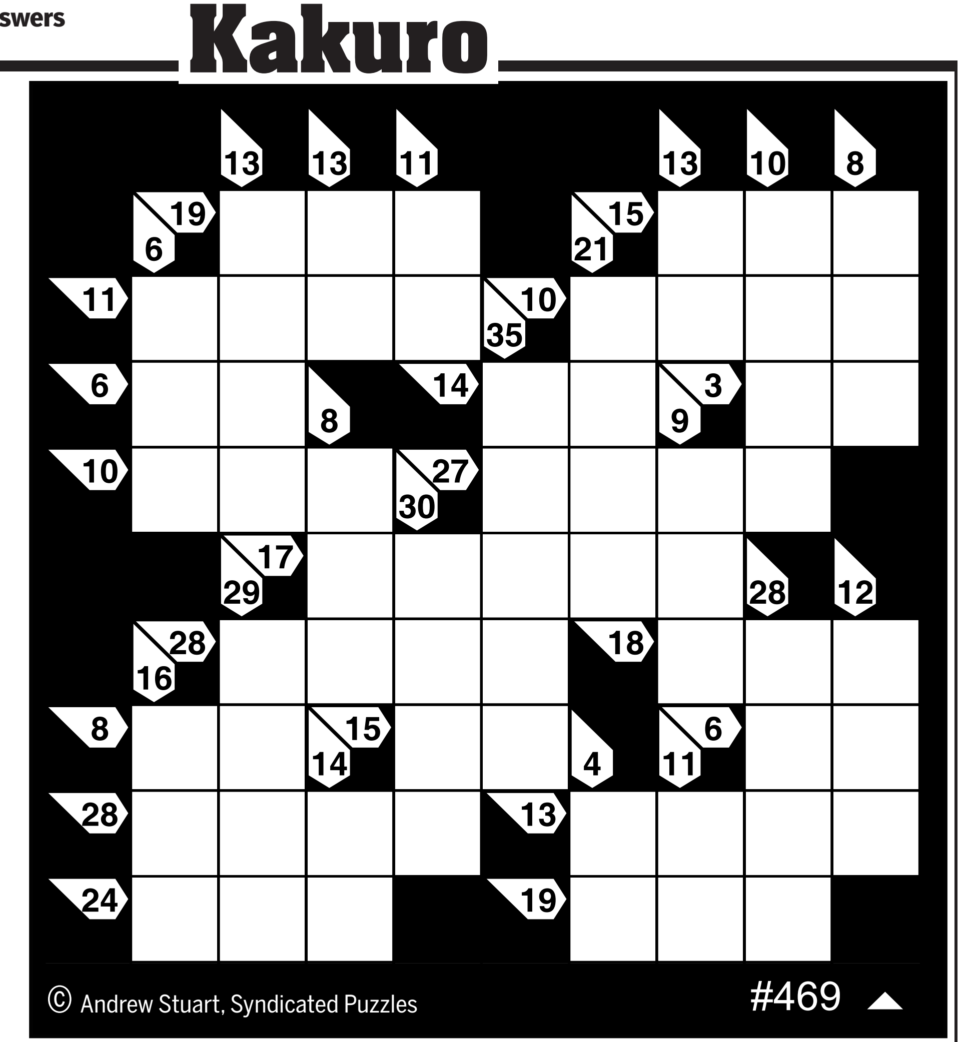
7	6		8		9		3	
		1		2		6		
								9
				8	5			
5		6		3		2		4
			4	6				
6								
		8		7		4		
	9		6		8		5	3

All Sunday puzzle answers on Page 56

All Sunday puzzle answers are on Page 56

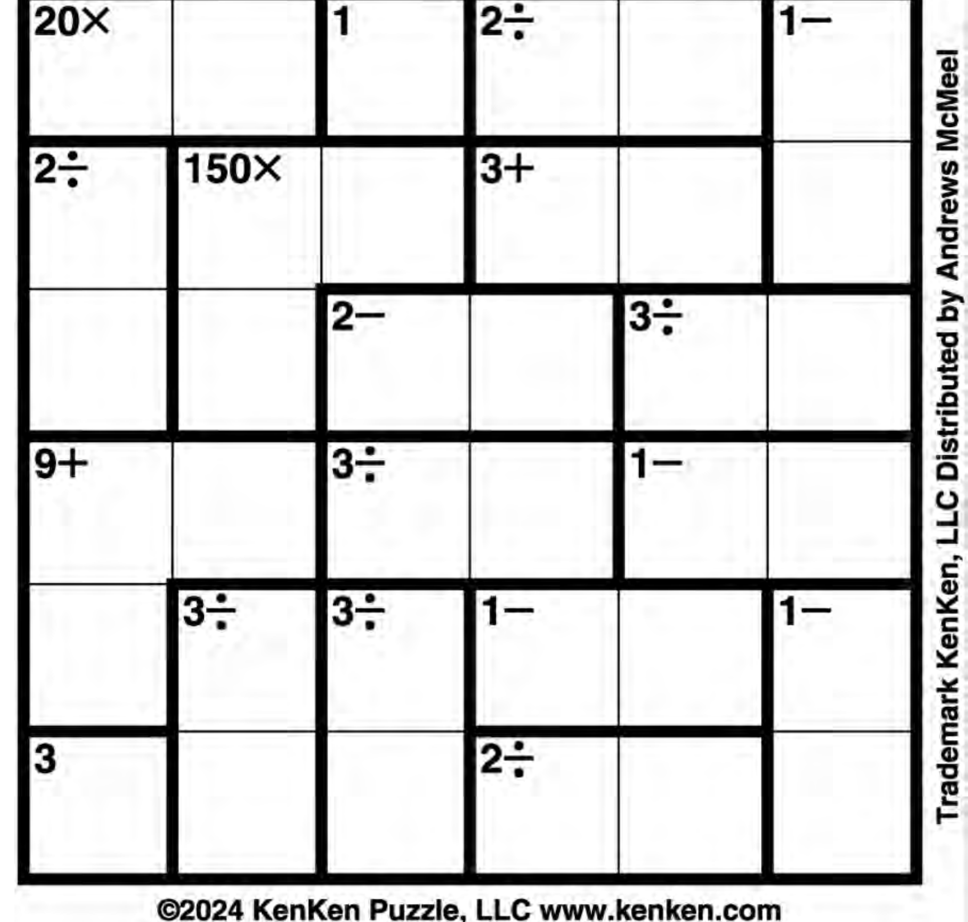
Kakuro

Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.



KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



Chess

Rules of engagement

By Andy Soltis

Newcomers to chess are often surprised that some rules are both strict and optional.

The "touch-move" rule says that if you pick up a piece to move it, you are not supposed to change your mind and move a different piece.

However, if your opponent doesn't object you can violate "touch-move."

Under another tournament rule, a player can claim a draw if a position occurs three times. But, this too, is optional.

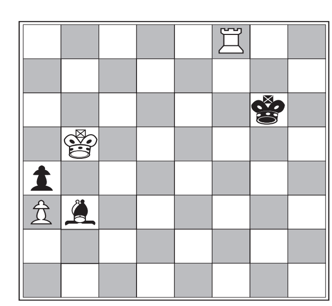
In a recent speed game in Croatia, Dommaraju Gukesh, the next world championship challenger, allowed a position to repeat seven times.

He and his opponent, Indian countryman Vidit Gujrathi, also repeated another position seven more times. Neither apparently wanted to end such an interesting game.

But it was finally declared a draw at move 51.

QUEEN PAWN'S GAME
Zagreb 2024

Dommaraju Gukesh	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave		
1 d4	Nf6	12 g3	gxf4
2 Bf4	d5	13 exf4	h5
3 e3	c5	14 Qe2	Rc8
4 c3	e6	15 h4	Rg8
5 Nd2	Nc6	16 Rg1	Qc7
6 Bd3	Bd6	17 b4	Ne7
7 Bxd6	Qxd6	18 Qe5??	Qc3!
8 f4	cxd4	19 Ke2	Ng4!
9 cxd4	Bd7	20 Qxh5	Nf5
10 a3	h6	21 Ne5	Nxd4+
11 Ngf3	g5	22 Resigns	



White to play and win.

A. Firouzja-V. Guthrathi

Zagreb 2024

Last week: 1...Qb3! and queens.

Sunday Word Force

INCIDENTAL

From the word or phrase above, form at least 22 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

Bridge

Players have different views on what a simple overcall requires. Some believe in climbing into the auction with skimpy values; others want a sound hand.

The key question is what you expect an overcall to accomplish (other than confirming your presence at the table). If your opponent opens one club, a one-diamond overcall should be sound since it has limited competitive and constructive value; but a one-spade overcall, which consumes a level of bidding and may obstruct the opponents' auction, might be light.

In today's deal, East's overcall of two clubs -- on a ragged five-card suit -- was risky, but it did have preemptive value. South's double was "negative." When North took out to two hearts, South tried 3NT.

As it happened, East's bid got West off to the best opening lead of the deuce of clubs. East took the ace and returned the nine. West took his king and led his last club, and East played the eight. South won and ran off five diamond tricks.

Discarding correctly when declarer cashes a long suit can tax even a world-class partnership, and East-West might have gone wrong here. But East's nine and eight of clubs had a suit-preference implication: high club spots to suggest an entry in spades, the high-ranking suit.

East had to find three discards; he threw a spade and then two hearts, clinging to his club winners. West trusted his partner and pitched spades, keeping his 10-5-4 of hearts. And then South could only take dummy's A-K of hearts for eight tricks and fold.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠Q 8 6
♡A K 2
♢K J 10 7 4
♣10 4

WEST
♠10 9 4 3
♡10 5 4
♢9 8 2
♣K 7 2

EAST
♠A 2
♡Q J 8 3
♢5 3
♣A 9 8 5 3

SOUTH
♠K J 7 5
♡9 7 6
♢A Q 6
♣Q J 6

North	East	South	West
1♢	2♣(!)	Dbl	Pass
2♡	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♣2

All Sunday puzzle answers are on Page 56

Boggle® BrainBusters!

B	U	P	H
W	O	I	S
G	O	K	E
A	G	L	M

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31 - 60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21 - 30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11 - 20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0 - 10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

H	I	S	H	Y
N	D	L	I	N
I	E	A	O	A
W	T	H	I	P
S	D	N	S	Z

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST EIGHT LANGUAGES in the grid of letters.

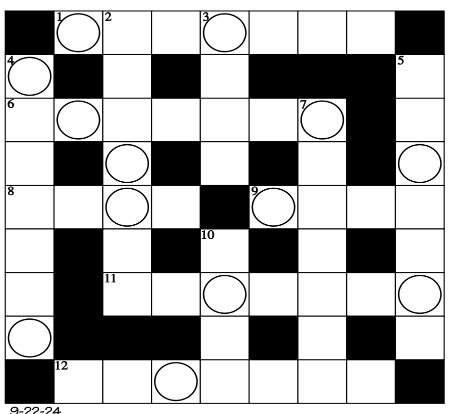
______ ______
______ ______
______ ______
______ ______

9-22-24

JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt

Sunday Puzzle



9-22-24

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Scale, range, proportion	NGARNIK
6. Enhance	UTNAEMG
8. ____ Desert	BOIG
9. Fiber for knitting	RAYN
11. Clumsy, inelegant	RWDAAWK
12. Type of boat	LONDGAO

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
2. ____ test	BEGRAAL
3. Enthusiastic	ENKE
4. ____, Alberta	LACYRGA
5. West Indies island	NEDRAAG
7. Hard labor	RVATLIA
10. Slide	KSDI

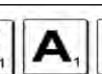
BONUS

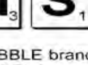
CLUE: The ____ ____ dates back to 1875.

How to play

Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

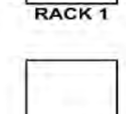
SCRABBLE® GRAMS

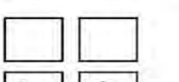





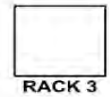
A1 A1 Y4 W4 F4 H4 L1 — Double Word Score — RACK 1

E1 E1 O1 G2 N1 Z10 L1 — RACK 2





A1 A1 I1 C3 L1 L1 G2 — RACK 3



I1 O1 U1 M3 H4 D2 R1 — 1st Letter Triple — RACK 4

A1 U1 L1 T1 R1 C3 F4 — RACK 5

PAR SCORE 270-280
BEST SCORE 348

FIVE RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

Super Su Doku

5		9	10		7			11	6		
1		2		12			5				
	12	8						7	10		
		6	4	11			3	9	12		8
	7					2	1			4	
				4		8	12				
				5	8		9				
	5	10		7	3					8	
11		7					4	6			
		3	6						4	2	
				3			11		7		5
		5	8			4		1	3		12

Wonderword

First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It's best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the Wonderword.

Adapt, Agriculture, Animals, Aquatic, Biodiversity, Biome, Birds, Carbon, Changes, Clean, Community, Conservation, Crops, Desert, Ecology, Ecosystem, Effect, Erosion, Farm, Fire, Fish, Forest, Fuel, Garden, Global, Grass, Growth, Habitat, Harvest, Health, Jungle, Lake, Land, Light, Mammals, Marine, Marsh, Metal, Mountains, Nature, Nitrogen, Ocean, Oxygen, Paper, Planets, Population, Preserve, Purify, Rain, Recycle, Renewable, Resources, Reuse, Rivers, Save, Shelter, Society, Soil, Solar, Space, Stewardship, Sustainability, Temperature, Tide, Trees, Tropical, Tundra, Vegetables, Waste, Water, Wild, World

OUR BIOSPHERE **SOLUTION: 11 LETTERS**

Y	Y	M	T	N	O	I	T	A	L	U	P	O	P	A	P	E	R	N	H
B	T	R	O	P	I	C	A	L	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	A
A	I	I	H	U	A	T	T	U	N	D	R	A	L	O	S	G	R	T	B
G	N	O	L	T	N	D	R	A	Q	U	A	T	I	C	Y	A	E	E	I
R	U	I	D	I	W	T	A	O	T	F	I	S	H	X	M	N	R	W	T
I	M	E	M	I	B	O	A	A	G	D	H	T	O	E	I	S	I	A	A
C	M	A	C	A	V	A	R	I	E	E	C	E	R	R	R	E	V	R	T
U	O	S	M	A	L	E	N	G	N	O	N	E	A	L	D	G	E	D	B
L	C	E	S	M	P	S	R	I	N	S	Y	M	I	L	M	N	R	S	I
T	E	E	R	M	A	S	S	S	A	F	E	G	I	E	T	A	S	H	O
U	L	R	E	O	D	L	E	S	I	T	H	W	T	D	I	H	S	I	M
R	A	T	I	R	S	R	S	R	A	T	S	S	T	N	M	C	T	P	E
E	B	R	I	F	V	I	U	L	W	R	Y	U	G	A	R	D	E	N	L
N	O	B	R	A	C	P	O	A	S	S	G	T	S	L	A	F	N	N	B
E	L	F	T	R	W	D	S	N	O	A	O	T	E	H	F	U	A	A	A
L	G	I	O	A	L	T	I	C	I	V	L	C	N	I	E	E	L	T	W
G	O	P	T	R	E	S	E	D	L	E	O	E	A	A	C	L	P	U	E
N	S	E	O	R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	C	F	E	O	L	O	T	R	N
U	R	W	P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E	E	F	L	A	K	E	S	E	E
J	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	R	E	U	S	E	C	R	U	O	S	E	R





Snaps

By Maude Campbell, Tori Schneebaum & Donna Grace

EAGLES NESTING SPOT

kevinhart4real/Instagram

Kevin Hart keeps 3-year-old daughter **Kaori** and 6-year-old son **Kenzo** close at hand while watching the Philadelphia Eagles.



WEB-SWINGER

Getty Images

Tom Holland nets himself a clean shot during a celebrity game before the PGA Championship in Virginia Water, England.



'RECREATION' STATION

Getty Images for Marvel

Amy Poehler (from left) hits the "Agatha All Along" red carpet in LA to support "Parks and Recreation" co-stars **Kathryn Hahn** and **Aubrey Plaza.**

BAT'S THE SPIRIT

"Batman & Robin" co-stars **Arnold Schwarzenegger** and **Uma Thurman** shake off the icicles and ivy for some quality time.

schwarzenegger/Instagram



NEED FOR TWEED

Olivia Wilde goes business casual for a luncheon in Tribeca.

WireImage

GLEE 'CLUB'

In NYC, REM's Michael Stipe (from left), artist Cindy Sherman and "The Breakfast Club's" Molly Ringwald and Ally Sheedy join forces at a campaign event for Kamala Harris.

michaelstipe/Instagram

FASHION 'GIRLS'

Lena Dunham gets ready to take style notes at JW Anderson's London fashion week show.

lenadunham/Instagram

FULL HOUSE OF KARDS

Kim Kardashian (top right) enjoys some quality time with North (clockwise), 11, Saint, 8, Chicago, 6, and Psalm, 5, before school's in session.

kimkardashian/Instagram

Snaps



ROBE TROTTER

Rihanna takes her 'fit from night to day at a Fenty Hair event in London.

GC Images

DAPPER DYNASTY

Colin Farrell and his 14-year-old son Henry twin at the Midtown premiere of HBO's "The Penguin."

WireImage

RED, RED ROSSUM

Emmy Rossum's all smiles in a monochrome ensemble.

emmy/Instagram

STEP & REPEAT

FKA Twigs (center) performs in "The Body Is Art" campaign during London fashion week.

Dave Benett/Getty Images

POINTS GUYS



TACO TWOFER

Serena Williams and hubby Alexis Ohanian get their grub on in Los Angeles.

serenawilliams/Instagram

THEIR WILL BE DONE

At a London screening of "Will & Harper," Harper Steele (from left), Will Ferrell and Rob Delaney celebrate their friendship.

robdelaney/Instagram

Tom Brady (left) and David Beckham share a laugh before a soccer match in Birmingham, England.

AP

HIT THE DECK

In the South of France, Priyanka Chopra and husband Nick Jonas spend some quality time together in between gigs.

priyankachopra/Instagram

'WIRE' CUTTERS

Idris Elba (left) and 50 Cent tease a musical collaboration.

50cent/Instagram

LOOK WHO'S TALKING
THIS WEEK'S GUESTS



LIVE WITH KELLY AND MARK
9 a.m., ABC
Monday: Jay Pharoah (above)
Tuesday: Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Wednesday: Shailene Woodley



TONIGHT SHOW JIMMY FALLON
11:35 p.m., NBC
Monday: Michael Strahan
Tuesday: Keith Urban, Margaret Qualley
Wednesday: Shaquille O'Neal, Chloë Sevigny (above)



LATE NIGHT SETH MEYERS
12:35 a.m., NBC
Monday: Michael Bublé (above)
Tuesday: Will Ferrell, Harper Steele
Wednesday: Andy Samberg,

Sunday September 22, 2024

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS — Movies — Sports — New

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	News 6:30pm	60 Minutes		Matlock: Pilot		Big Brother		Tracker: Beyond the Campus Walls (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Jets Late Night
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Football Night in America		(8:15) Sunday Night Football: Kansas City Chiefs at Atlanta Falcons from Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Live.							News 4 New York at 11
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(4:25) NFL Football Live.		The OT Live.	Rescue: HI-Surf: Pilot		Universal Basic Guys	Bob's Burgers	The 10 O'Clock News	Sports Extra	In Depth	Raw Travel (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	America's Funniest Home Videos (R)		High Potential: Pilot (R)		9-1-1: Ashes, Ashes (R)		9-1-1: All Fall Down (R)		Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.: Now Is Always Temporary		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Suits: Pilot, Part 1		Suits: Pilot, Part 2	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	Penn & Teller: Fool Us: Now Teller (R)		The Chosen: Calm Before			The Conners	PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		PIX11 Sports Nation	Yankees Nation
13 WNET	13	13	13	Heart & Soul			Ridley: A Sleeping Tiger, Part 2		Moonflower Murders		Van Der Valk: Safe in Amsterdam Part 2		Sisi: Austrian Empress	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	PBS News	Metro (R)	America (R)	Metro (R)	America (R)	Foreigner Double Vision		Foreigner	Collagen Diet (R)		Collagen
25 WNYE	25	22	25	(5:30) TBA	GZero	Profiles (R)	On Story	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Neighbor	Voyager	Feet	Confucius Was a Foodie	
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Willoughby		NCIS: Off the Grid		NCIS: Keep Going		NCIS: Nonstop		NCIS: Pandora's P1	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	Fútbol Liga MX: UNAM vs Tijuana desde Estadio Caliente. Directo.					Fútbol Liga MX: Santos Laguna vs Toluca. Directo.				Noticias	Noticiero
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	La Isla Desafío Extremo		(7:58) La Isla Desafío Extremo: Part 2				Pica y se extiende		Noticiero	Noticias (R)
55 WLNY	55	10	10	(6:00) ET	Inside	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning			Europe By	Judge Judy	Paid	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	First 48 (R)	The First 48: The Visitor		The First 48: Fallen Hero		The First 48 (R)		(10:01) The First 48 (R)		The First 48: Last Shift	
AMC	54	43	231	(6:00) The Matrix (1999, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves. R ★★★★					Snowpiercer: Last Stop		Snowpiercer: Last Stop		(11:10) The Matrix (1999)	
BET	37	54	270	(4:30) Brown Sugar (2002)		Love & Basketball (2000, Romance) Omar Epps. PG-13 ★★★							About Last Night (2014) R	
BBCAM	71	101	189	(5:30) Rocky IV (1985) ★★½		Rocky V (1990, Drama) Sylvester Stallone. PG-13 ★★					Gone in 60 Seconds (2000, Action) Nicolas Cage. ★★★			
BRAVO	18	44	185	Below (R)	Below Deck (R)		Below Deck (R)		Below Deck (R)		Watch What	Salt Lake City (R)		Housewives
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		The Whole Story with		TV On the Edge		Have I Got News (R)		The Whole Story with (R)	
COM	45	50	190	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
DIS	49	31	250	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Encanto (2021) Stephanie Beatriz. ★★★			Primos (R)	Primos (R)	Primos (R)	Primos (R)	Primos (R)
DSC	66	27	120	Nkd & Afrd	Naked and Afraid (R)		Naked and Afraid (R)		Naked and Afraid (R)		Naked and Afraid (R)		Naked and Afraid (R)	
E!	24	51	196	Sweet Home Alabama		50 First Dates (2004, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★★				Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Comedy) Reese Witherspoon. ★★½				
ESPN	28	36	70	2024 WNBA	MLB Baseball: Philadelphia Phillies at New York Mets from Citi Field. Live.						2024 WNBA Playoffs: Teams TBA Live.			
ESPN2	29	35	74	College	SportsCenter Live.		Sports Live.	Red Bull Cliff		Fighters	SportsCenter Live.		SportsCenter Live.	
FBN	43	106	117	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)
FNC	44	26	118	Fox Report	The Big Weekend Show		Life, Liberty & Levin		Sunday Night		Weekend Show (R)		Life, Liberty & Levin (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Halloween	Halloween Bake (R)		Road to Halloween Wars		Halloween Wars: Classic Halloween Horrors				Halloween Cookie (R)	
FREFRM	38	49	199	World End	(7:15) Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011, Adventure) Johnny Depp. PG-13 ★★★							Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny		
FS1	400	99	83	MLS Soccer: Philadelphia Union at D.C. United. Live.				The Joel K	Mexican Liga MX Soccer: Juárez at Tigres UANL.				Big Noon Satur Replay.	
FX	10	40	53	Jumanji	Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (2023, Adventure) Harrison Ford. PG-13 ★★★							Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker ★★★		
HALL		191	240	Falling Together (2024) Ashley Williams.			A Harvest Wedding (2017, Romance) Jill Wagner. ★★½				Guiding Emily (2023, Drama) Sarah Drew.			
HGTV	64	98	165	Unsellable	Unsellable Houses (R)		My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery
HIST	40	47	128	American Godfathers: The Old Rules			American Godfathers: The Five Families (R)				(10:04) American Godfathers: The Five Families (R)			
ID	23	171	123	Evil Here	Evil Lives Here (R)		Evil Lives Here (R)		Evil Lives Here		Married to Evil		48 Hours on ID (R)	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) Buried Alive & Survived (2024)			Taken in Plain Sight (2024, Thriller) Tennille Read. NR				(10:03) Buying Back My Daughter (2023, Drama) NR			
MeTV	33	33	3	Collector	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Family	Family	Family	Family	Classics	Burnett	Van Dyke	Van Dyke
MSG	27	87	78	NHL Pre. Hockey Live.		ML Pickleball Replay.				NHL Pre. Hockey Replay.				NY Giants
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(5:00) NHL	NHL Pre. Hockey: New York Islanders at New Jersey Devils. Live.					Devils	NHL Pre. Hockey Replay.			
MSNBC	14	23	103	The Sunday	Ayman (R)		Ayman		Rachel Maddow (R)		Inside With Jen Psaki (R)		Ayman (R)	
MTV	20	53	210	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
NATGEO	65	162	121	Parks: USA	National Parks: USA (R)		National Parks: USA		National Parks		Lost City Machu (R)		National Parks: USA (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) 20/20	20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN: Deadly		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)	
PARMT	36	56	54	(5:30) Step Brothers (2008, Comedy) R			(7:55) The Longest Yard (2005, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★½					(10:35) Step Brothers (2008, Comedy) R		
SNY	26	60	77	Mets Flip	College Football: Lafayette Leopards at Columbia Lions. Replay.						Post Game	Sports Live.	Sports Live.	Sports Live.
SYFY	17	48	180	(6:45) The 355 (2022, Action) Diane Kruger, Penélope Cruz. ★½					(9:15) Rampage (2018, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Naomie Harris.					2 Fast ★★½
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Impractical	Jokers	The Day After Tomorrow	
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) The Learning Tree (1969, Drama)			Libeled Lady (1936, Comedy) Jean Harlow. NR ★★★				The Awful Truth (1937, Comedy) Irene Dunne. ★★★½			
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day Fiancé (R)		90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days: Revelations				Sister Wives: Be Light		(11:01) 90 Day Fiancé	
TNT	3	37	51	(5:30) The Meg (2018, Thriller) ★★½			Avengers: Infinity War (2018, Action) Robert Downey Jr. PG-13 ★★★½						(11:15) The Meg (2018)	
TVLAND	85	34	241	Mike	Mike	Mike	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		(11:01) Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	19	52	217	I Love NY	I Love New York		I Love New York		Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single
WE	59	42	149	Law & Ordr	Law & Order		Law & Order		Law & Order: Just a Girl		Law & Order			
YES	53	89	76	MLB Game	Yankees Postgame Live.		Homegrown	History of the: 1957-1979		My Number	MLB Baseball Replay.			
HBO	511	301	400	(6:45) Batman Returns (1992, Action) Michael Keaton. PG-13 ★★★					The Penguin (R)		Industry: Useful Idiot		(11:16) Last Week (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	Now You See Me (2013, Thriller) Jesse Eisenberg.				(8:27) I, Frankenstein (2014, Action) ★★			After Earth (2013) Jaden Smith. ★★½			Hellboy
MGM Plus	595		395	Mission	(7:10) The Beekeeper (2024, Action) Jason Statham. R				From: Shatter		Wonderland		From: Shatter (R)	
PARSHO	551	321	365	World War Z (2013, Horror) Brad Pitt.			Special Ops:: Like a Fist		Dexter: Love American		Dexter: Return to Sender		Memory (2024) R ★★★	

TV 8 THINGS TO WATCH THIS WEEK

2 THE KELLY CLARKSON SHOW

Monday 3 p.m., NBC
Grammy Award-winning singer **Kelly Clarkson** (left) returns with a brand new season of her hit afternoon talk show. The season will kick off with a rooftop celebration at 30 Rock and a show-stopping Kellyoke medley.



3 MATLOCK

Sunday 8 p.m., CBS
SERIES PREMIERE
Madeline "Matty" Matlock (Kathy Bates, right) is a brilliant septuagenarian who decides to rejoin the workforce at a prestigious law firm where she uses her unassuming demeanor and wily tactics to win cases alongside the firm's younger associates.

4 EVERYBODY STILL HATES CHRIS

Wednesday 10 p.m., Comedy Central
SERIES PREMIERE The original 'Everybody Hates Chris' cast returns for Comedy Central's animated version of the hit comedy. Chris Rock will return to narrate once again, with Terry Crews and Tichina Arnold reprising their roles as Chris's parents.

5 SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

Saturday 11:30 p.m., NBC
'Saturday Night Live' celebrates its milestone 50th season with 'Hacks' star Jean Smart hosting the premiere. John Mulaney, Michael Keaton, and Ariana Grande are also set to host this season.

6 NOBODY WANTS THIS

Thursday, Netflix
An unconventional rabbi Noah (**Adam Brody**, far right) strikes up an unlikely relationship with outspoken, agnostic podcast host Joanne (**Kristen Bell**, right).



7 WILL & HARPER

Friday, Netflix
When **Will Ferrell** (far right) finds out his close friend of 30 years, **Harper Steele** (right), is coming out as a trans woman, the two decide to embark on a cross-country road trip to process this new stage of their relationship in an intimate portrait of friendship, transition, and America.



8 MR. MCMAHON

Wednesday, Netflix
Netflix's new documentary chronicles the rise and fall of **Vince McMahon** (left), controversial businessman and co-founder of WWE, who resigned from the company after a former employee launched a damning lawsuit accusing him of depraved sexual misconduct.



Left to right: Jennifer Pedranti and Katie Ginella from "Real Housewives of Orange County."

Casey Durkin/Bravo

THE 'O.C.' ROOKIE

'Real Housewives of Orange County' newcomer Katie Ginella opens up about her dramatic first season on the show

By SAMANTHA NUNGESSER

KATIE GINELLA wasted no time getting into trouble in her first season of "**Real Housewives of Orange County**." The former golf reporter joined as a full-time cast member in Season 18, where she joined through longtime star Gina Kirschenheiter.

But loyalties were quickly tested when Ginella dared to face off against Heather Dubrow, revealing a lackluster "receipt" in which a friend who works with paparazzi seemingly confirmed that Fancy Pants and her husband staged their infamous Disneyland photos. Now, she's in hot water for accusing Kirschenheiter of encouraging her to bring up paparazzi gate on camera.

Ginella opened up to DECIDER about her first season and whether or not she plans on returning.

DECIDER: How are you feeling about your first season? And who would you say you became the closest with outside of filming?

KATIE GINELLA: It's been a lot. It's been a little daunting, but I got through it. I made it. Jenn Pedranti and I are truly, in real life, really good friends. We talk three or four times a day, all day long.

What was the best piece of advice you received from a fellow Housewife?

Both Sutton and Gina from my cast both told me to just be authentically who you are. Because then it's easy and they're completely right. If you just make your decisions and you say the things that you're comfortable with and you're never going to go wrong just being yourself.

Did you ever expect that Gina would be the one you're feuding with?

I did not see that coming. But, you know, I think that's kind of how it goes with friendships. Sometimes you have peaks and valleys. And we went through a lot of peaks and valleys. But we're seeing our way through it. We're getting through it.

Were you surprised by her reaction to your revelation that she allegedly wanted to remain friends with Heather for her real estate contacts?

When we initially had that conversation, it didn't really shock me. Why wouldn't she want Heather's help? Heather has a lot of friends that can buy a lot of big homes. And Gina's growing her business. That's not that shocking. And they've been friends for a long time. Longer than we have.

Would you say the show has strengthened or weakened your friendship?

We don't talk as much as we used to, but I think we're okay. We had a very frank conversation a couple weeks ago that we were both going to talk a lot about each other, and there's going to be a lot of hard times to watch, but that we're okay. We're just going to get through it. I feel like it's weakened because you wouldn't normally have these kinds of tiffs in a normal relationship... But we're making it.

Is there anything you regret doing or anything you wish you had done?

When it comes to the stuff with Heather, I really wish I could have talked to her woman to woman about it... Looking back, I wish her and I could have had that conversation together. Just the two of us.

Do you think you will come back next season?

I want to get through the rest of the season, watching and filming the reunion and then make a decision. I'm kind of 50/50 right now, and I'd like to honestly talk to my family about it, too, because it's not just a commitment for me. It's a commitment for my entire family.

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
Your energy may take a dip over the next few days but it is nothing to be worried about. All that is happening is that your body can sense the need to slow down and is trying to pass on that message to your mind. Listen to it.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
As the Sun moves into your sign your confidence will soar and you will be happy to take on tasks that you previously thought were too risky or too much of a challenge. Don't get carried away though: you have limits like everyone else.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
What seems difficult today will make you stronger tomorrow, so don't worry if you struggle a bit over the next few days as it is all part of the growing process. Looking back from the end of the year you will feel a great sense of pride.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
The most important thing now is that you do whatever it takes to stay on good terms with your friends and important social contacts. Above all that means keeping what you know about their private affairs to yourself. In short, don't be a gossip!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
If you want to move up in the world then the Sun's transit of the career area of your chart will provide endless possibilities over the next few weeks. Keep your eyes and ears open and move swiftly and when Lady Luck comes calling.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You will feel a great sense of freedom now that the Sun is moving into your fellow Air sign of Libra. Even if your money situation isn't looking great you can find ways to lead a more adventurous life. Many good things still come for free.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)
Focus on the fact that life is supposed to be fun and that even if some things depress you there will always be ways to get past them and start smiling again. The world is full of opportunities, so open up and welcome them in.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)
Don't let others bully you into doing something you are not sure about. As the Sun moves into your opposite sign of Libra you may find that people who would not normally oppose you suddenly become overly assertive. Stand your ground.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)
The past few weeks have seen you at your most creative and dynamic and just because the Sun is now changing signs does not mean you must change too. You will though have to take other people's needs into account more than you have done of late.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)
One of the best times of the year is beginning as the Sun moves into the most energetic area of your chart and the plans you make over the coming week will lead to some amazing successes. If you can dream it you can do it, it's that simple.

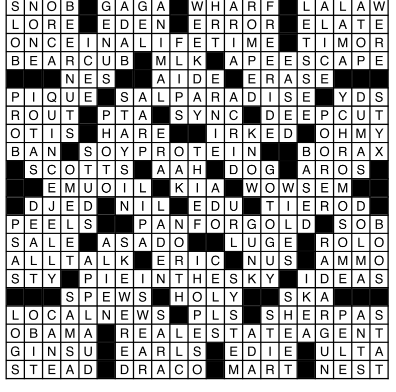
CANCER (June 22-July 23)
You have enjoyed some pretty good times of late and your social life in particular has been a lot of fun, but now you must focus on your home life and the people who depend on you most. What can you do to show your love for them?

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)
You have never been the sort to change your ways to please other people and no way are you going to start now. Make it your aim over the coming week to join with people who share your positive outlook on life. Together you will do wonders.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY
A relationship reset is called for and the best way to make it happen is to recognize that you are not going to change the other person and they are not going to change you. Accept them for who they are and reject your tendency to be overly judgmental.

Sunday Break puzzles answers

Sunday Crossword



Su Doku

3	8	1	5	7	4	9	6	2
5	4	6	1	2	9	3	7	8
2	9	7	8	3	6	4	1	5
6	7	4	2	5	3	1	8	9
1	2	3	7	9	8	5	4	6
8	5	9	6	4	1	7	2	3
4	3	8	9	6	7	2	5	1
7	6	2	3	1	5	8	9	4
9	1	5	4	8	2	6	3	7

Very Easy #6,679

4	2	8	3	1	9	5	6	7
7	6	1	5	8	4	9	3	2
3	9	5	6	2	7	4	8	1
8	1	4	7	3	5	2	9	6
5	3	6	4	9	2	7	1	8
9	7	2	1	6	8	3	5	4
1	4	7	8	5	3	6	2	9
6	5	9	2	7	1	8	4	3
2	8	3	9	4	6	1	7	5

Difficult #6,469

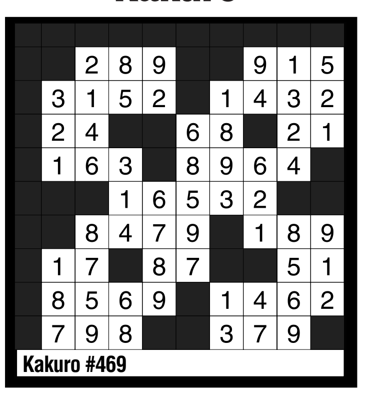
7	6	4	8	5	9	1	3	2
9	5	1	7	2	3	6	4	8
8	2	3	1	4	6	5	7	9
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5	8	6	9	3	7	2	1	4
2	3	7	4	6	1	9	8	5
6	7	5	3	9	4	8	2	1
3	1	8	5	7	2	4	9	6
4	9	2	6	1	8	7	5	3

Challenging #469

Super Su Doku

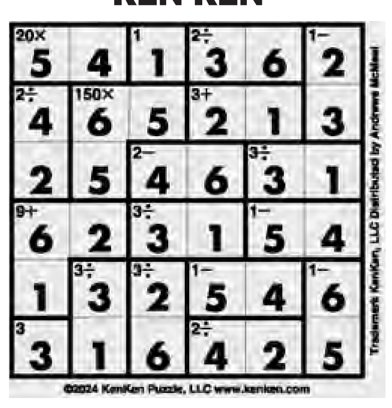
5	4	9	10	1	7	3	8	11	6	12	2
1	6	2	7	12	11	10	5	3	8	9	4
3	12	8	11	9	4	6	2	7	10	5	1
2	1	6	4	11	5	7	3	9	12	10	8
8	7	12	3	10	9	2	1	5	11	4	6
9	10	11	5	4	6	8	12	2	1	3	7
6	3	1	12	5	8	11	9	4	2	7	10
4	5	10	2	7	3	1	6	12	9	8	11
11	8	7	9	2	10	12	4	6	5	1	3
12	11	3	6	8	1	5	7	10	4	2	9
10	2	4	1	3	12	9	11	8	7	6	5
7	9	5	8	6	2	4	10	1	3	11	12

Kakuro



Kakuro #469

KEN KEN



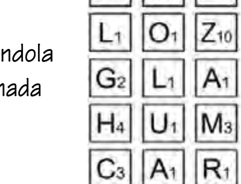
Jumble

ANSWERS: 1A-Ranking 6A-Augment 8A-Gobi 9A-Yarn 11A-Awkward 12A-Gondola 2D-Algebra 3D-Keen 4D-Calgary 5D-Grenada 7D-Travail 10D-Skid B-Kentucky Derby

Boggle Brain Busters Bonus

LAO, THAI, HINDI, LATIN, POLISH, ITALIAN, SWEDISH, SPANISH

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION



RACK 1 = 88
RACK 2 = 67
RACK 3 = 60
RACK 4 = 71
RACK 5 = 62
TOTAL 348

PAR SCORE 270-280

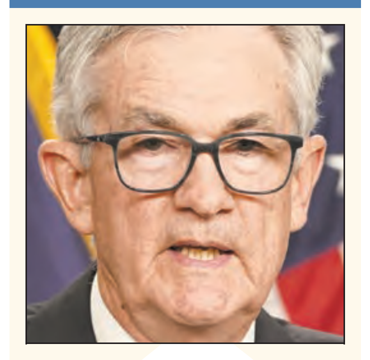
Sunday Word Force

acted, ailed, alien, cadet, caned, cited, clean, dance, dealt, decal, delta, edict, enact, ideal, inane, inlet, lance, licit, lined, linen, tidal, tiled

Wonderword answer: TERRESTRIAL

PostBusiness

THE WEEK'S WINNERS

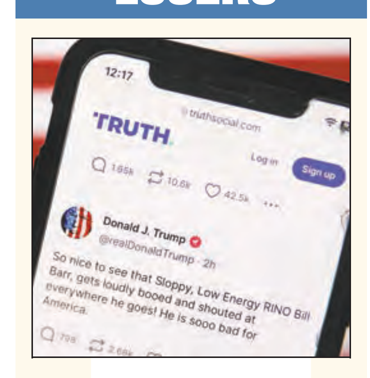


WALL STREET
Fed Chair Jerome Powell delivered the half-percentage-point rate cut that investors badly wanted, sending the Dow and S&P 500 to all-time highs.

ELON MUSK
Billionaire's Neuralink startup receives the FDA's "breakthrough device" status for an implant aimed at helping blind patients regain their sight.

GAYLE KING
CBS News renewed the contract of its biggest star, sources told The Post, even though the network is cutting costs.

LOSERS



TRUMP MEDIA
Shares of the Truth Social parent plunged as a lockup period that barred former President Donald Trump and other major investors from selling stock expired.

APPLE
Weak demand for the iPhone 16 alarmed analysts and sent shares down, while the EU warned of more antitrust fines.

AMAZON WORKERS
Staffers were fuming after CEO Andy Jassy ordered employees to return to the office five days a week.

ANOTHER WOKE BANKER

Moynihan's U. mess



CHARLES GASPARINO

BRIAN Moynihan has his hands full running Bank of America, the nation's second largest lender, which is why he raised some eyebrows in July when he took on the volunteer position as chancellor of the Corporation of Brown University, the governing body of his alma mater.

Those eyebrows got even wider when Brown took idiotic wokeness to new levels.

We all know universities have become a hotbed of left-wing, Marxist activism, with a heavy dose of antisemitism as war rages in Gaza and Israel rightly protects its citizens following the Oct. 7 massacre. Leaders at Penn and Harvard have lost their jobs for failing to crack down on Jew haters on campus, which makes what's going down at Brown so odd.

The Brown Corporation will soon vote on whether Brown's $6 billion-plus endowment should divest from companies that do business not with dictatorships like Iran or Venezuela, but the one true democracy in the Middle East, Israel.

That the vote to economically harm an ally of this country and a multi-ethnic democracy is taking place in mid-October, nearly a year to the day since the slaughter of innocent Israelis — and Americans — near Gaza only adds to the lack of common sense and plain old decency of this spectacle. That a major bank CEO is part of a move to appease campus radicals who apparently believe the killing of innocents is justified makes it all the more bizarre.

Defenders of Moynihan say his involvement in the mess is more nuanced, which I will address in a moment. That said, I'm not totally surprised that he's involved even tangentially in this travesty given his history of caving to woke forces.

As I point out in my book "Go Woke Go Broke; The Inside Story of the Radicalization of Corporate America," some of Moynihan's greatest woke hits as CEO include rationalizing the social-justice riots following the killing of George Floyd as a byproduct of a country that is systematically racist, or in his muddled verbiage: "The protests are about not having the equivalent opportunity, criminal justice treatment by authorities, and the serious [COVID] infections of communities of color," he said.

BofA's Carolina roots

BofA is headquartered these days in New York but traces its roots to Charlotte, NC, and the state's regional banking powerhouse, North Carolina National Bank. It remains a presence in the city and the mostly conservative-leaning state. Moynihan didn't care when in 2016, he publicly opposed a state law that banned trans women from using the ladies' room despite justified concerns that such accommodations lead to sexual assaults. Also in 2021, BofA teamed up with the Charlotte United Way to encourage some employees to partake in "A Racial Equity 21-Day Challenge" — so they can come to terms with what the event called their "white privilege, white fragility, and systemic racism."

Not sure how Moynihan fared during the challenge or whether he even took the test, but you can see why I'm hardly gobsmacked that he's part of an entity that made a deal with the devil, in this case the campus leftist radicals. The Brown Corporation will vote on divestiture, scheduled for Oct. 17 and 18, after university President Christina Paxson caved to the demands of campus extremists. The students said they would stop their disruptive "encampments" and protesting with their decidedly antisemitic overtones in exchange for an Israel-divestiture vote.

Whatever happened to refusing to negotiate with terrorists? Yes, I know universities aren't banks, where the CEO and board call all the shots. Left-wing faculties have significant input beyond indoctrinating their ideology on students. The flack for the school told me as much in an email, stating the vote "is part of a long-established process" that "allows any University community member to submit a divestment proposal for examination."

Maybe, but the gentle souls who run Brown and caved to the radicals may have forgotten who's paying most of the bills — the vast majority of the student body and alumni who fund its endowment — and they are sick of the protests and indoctrination by faculty. Just ask the ousted presidents of Harvard and Penn.

Again, people who know Moynihan describe his role in the mess as something close to an innocent bystander. He took the job as chancellor as a volunteer. The deal with the student radicals was largely cut by Paxson, who then foisted it upon the corporation for an up-or-down vote.

But that doesn't mean he has to play along with the idiocy. I asked a flack for BofA why Moynihan doesn't just follow the lead of a man named Joseph Edelman, a hedge-funder who is also a Brown Corporation trustee but quit when the vote was allowed. In a Wall Street Journal op-ed, Edelman wrote: "I find it morally reprehensible that holding a divestment vote was even considered."

Moynihan could have done the same. It would have been a pretty strong statement that adults are either going to run the show or they won't play the role of useful idiots in a campus revolt. It might have sparked a useful conversation that forces Brown to move away from a leftist orthodoxy that appeases those who celebrate murder.

The BofA flack's response: "Since universities were founded in the United States, corporate executives have served as volunteers on their boards to provide them guidance. It is a great tradition."

Yeah, really great.

Black mark on Brown



Bank of America chief Brian Moynihan, also the volunteer chancellor of the Corporation of Brown University, joined Brown President Christina Paxson (below) in yielding to university radicals who have been demanding a woke Israel-divestment vote.

Getty Images

EMPLOYMENT

GENERAL HELP WANTED

Fclties Wrkr –Woodside NY - F/T 24 mos exp to keep bldng in clean & ordrly cndtion. $49,629/YR. Resume to KK Machine 6934 51st Ave Woodside NY 11377 Attn: Mr Hajek

Fmly Hlpr – NY NY - F/T 6 mos exp to prvd chldcr in a prvt hshold. $34,278 /YR. Resume to 120 E 87th St Apt P16A NY NY 10128. Attn: Mr Correia

Prvt Hsehld Cook – Hewlett NY - F/T 24 mos exp to create menus, plan, prpre & cook dishes. $49,691/YR. Resume to 1390 Stevenson Rd Hewlett NY 11557 Attn: Mr Ziarno

Dental Assis NY NY F/T 24 mos exp to prep ptient. Strlze & dsnfct instrmnts. $48,776/YR. Resume to Seligman Orthodontics 898 Park Ave NY NY 10075 Attn: Mr Seligman

PRACTICE MANAGER: FT. Manage operation, supervision, customer service, scheduling, invoices, insurance, training 2 yr. exp. Shark Veterinary Services PLLC 118-27 Metropolitan Ave Kew Gardens NY 11415.

TECH CAREERS

Software Engineers (NY, NY) – Desn, develp, & impl s/w apps for financial & trading systms mgmt. Req MS in CS, Digtl Sci, Com Engg, EE, or Info Systm Engg & Mgmt + skills & knowldg of J2EE, Spring Boot, Apache POI API, Spring Security, Kubernetes, and Microservices. Allow telecommuting. $180k~$185k/yr. Send rés w/code WET002 to HR, Drivewealth Tech, 28 Liberty St, Flr 50, NY, NY 10005.

TECH CAREERS

Site Reliability Engineers
Drivewealth Technologies, NY, NY is recruiting. Allow telecommuting. Send res w/code to HR, Drivewealth, 28 Liberty St, Flr 50, NY, NY 10005. Sr. Site Reliability Engineer (KAC003) – Analyze & develop site reliability s/w support solutns. Req MS in CS, Com Engg, or EE + skills & knowldg of Python, AWS, Unix Shell Scripting, Oracle/SQL, ITRS Monitoring tools, J2EE, Cloud Computing. $150k~$155k/yr. Principal Site Reliability Engineer (PRT001) – Lead the desn & develpmt of secure Clearing & Settlement s/w for financial & trading systms. Supervs 3 develprs. Req MS in CS, Com Engg, or EE + skills & knowldg of MySQL, AWS Cloud, Python, Network Architecture/Routing, Tableau/Power BI, Azure DevOps. $180k~$185k/yr.

Software QA Engineers (NY, NY) - Desn & devlp automatd test s/w for qualty assurance of investmt mgmt s/w. Req MS or its equvt (BS +5 yrs exp inclusv of the 2 yrs exp in job offrd or as Specialist in Testing) in CS, Comp Engg, Info Tech, or EE +2 yrs exp in job offrd or as Specialist in Testing. Req skills & knowldg in Tosca, Provar, Salesforce, Selenium, SOAP. Req 100 % travel to unantcptd client loctns in USA. Allow telecommtg. $157.5k~$160k/yr. Email res to HR, Mitchell/Martin at NAN004@itmmi.com

Software Engineers (NY, NY) – Desn & devlp applicatns in financial domain. Req MS in CS, Com Engg, EE, or Info Systms Security +1 yr exp in job offrd or as Programmr Analyst. Req skills & knowldg in Spring MVC, JQuery, HTML5/XHTML, CSS3, JavaScript, XML, AngularJS, SDLC. Req 100% travel to unanticptd client locatns in US. Allow telecommtg. Range: $135k~$155k/yr. Email rés to HR, Mitchell/Martin, Inc at MEK002@itmmi.com

TECH CAREERS

Computer/IT: [MULTIPLE POSITIONS] Avanade Inc. is seeking Azure Data Engineers in St. Petersburg, FL to deliver analytics & business intelligence solutions to our clients. Periodic travel to client sites (domestic) is expected up to 80% of the time. Must live w/in reasonable commuting distance of St. Petersburg, FL. Position requires at least a bach. degree, or foreign equiv., & at least 2 yr s.' exp. **Alt., in lieu of bach. deg. & 2 yrs.' exp., emp. will accept no deg. & 4 yrs.' exp.** For full position details and requirements, and to apply online, please visit www.avanade.com [Click Careers: Choose "Search for your dream job": Search by Keyword: 6749] OR visit https://www.avanade.com/en/career/job-details/6479

EDUCATION

Information Clerk for Filipino Students-New York: Under mgr. supervision, communicate w/ students in the Philippines & the U.S., to provide asst. & guidance; & maintain records. High School or Foreign Equiv.+Fluent Tagalog Req. $37,710/YR. Send ltr/res to Global English Academy, Inc. 254 W 29th St., #4FL, New York, NY 10001 ATTN: MGR.

RESTAURANT & HOSPITALITY

Assistant Restaurant Manager wanted by Korean restaurant for job in NY, NY. $37,211.00/yr. Reqd HS diploma or GED. Send cover letter w/ resume to RJRH, Corp. d/b/a Ongi, 630 3rd Ave, NY, NY 10017.

EMPLOYMENT

FINANCIAL

Investment Associate, NY, NY: LD M&A INV PROC. Min. Reqs: MA's deg. in Fin., ACCTG & fundamental analysis, / a closely rltd fld. 1 & a 1/2 yrs of Fin. rltd exp. w/: 1) M&A PROC from sourcing, bidding, diligence, valuation, negotiation to closing, 2) portfolio CMPY MGMT & OPERs, 3) CMDT & e-scrap recycling mkts, & 4) metal refinery & smelter BSNSes, as an INV Associate, INV BKNG Analyst, / in a rltd occ. Exp. in DEV'g sophisticated FSI models in excel, INCLDG 3 STMT projection, DCF, LBO, NPV/IRR valuation, accretive/dilutive analysis, capital raising, JV investing, CR. analysis/ UW, liquidity MGMT, etc. Exp. w/: Factset, Bloomberg, Capital IQ, SQL, VBA, & Power BI. Strong KNWL of Razor & Netsuite. Strong KNWL may be gained thru educational C/W, TRNG, / exp. Salary: $170,000/yr. Send resumes: Martin Won Suk Choi, PEDALPOINT HOLDINGS, LLC, martin.choi@pedalpointllc.com. Job ref: 1001.

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NCheng LLP CPAs, New York NY seek Sr. Accountant, req. Master's in accounting, finance, risk mgmt or rel. fields & 6 months. exp. Wage $94,973/yr. Mail resume with cover letter to 40 Wall St. 32nd Fl., Ste. 3222, NY, NY 10005 Job Code JF2024

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PROFESSIONAL

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LEGAL NOTICES

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The Secured Party, as lender, made a loan (the "Mezzanine Loan") to the Mezzanine Borrower. In connection with the Mezzanine Loan, the Mezzanine Borrower has granted to the Secured Party a first priority lien on the Interests pursuant to that certain Mezzanine Pledge and Security Agreement. The Secured Party is offering the Interests for sale in connection with the foreclosure on the pledge of such Interests. The Mezzanine Loan is subordinate to a mortgage loan and other obligations and liabilities of the Mortgage Borrower or otherwise affecting the property (the "Senior Loan").

The sale of the Interests will be subject to all applicable third-party consents and regulatory approvals, if any. Without limitation to the foregoing, please take notice that there are specific requirements for any potential successful bidder in connection with obtaining information and bidding on the Interests, including but not limited to, (1) complying with the restrictions applicable to the sale of the Interests under the Intercreditor Agreement dated as of May 19, 2022 by and among the Secured Party and the holder of the Senior Loan (the "Intercreditor Agreement"), including, among other things, that such bidder is a Qualified Transferee (as defined in the Intercreditor Agreement) and that such bidder delivers replacement guaranties from a Supplemental Third Party Obligor (as defined in the Intercreditor Agreement), (2) complying with the Mortgage Borrower's governing documents and the documents governing the Senior Loan, (3) delivering such documents and pay such amounts as required by the Intercreditor Agreement and the applicable governing documents relating to the Interests, and (4) complying with the other qualifications and requirements set forth in the Terms of Sale relating to the sale of the Interests.

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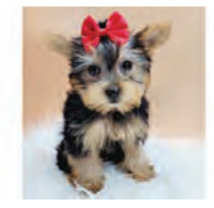
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Belmont at the Big A

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day With The Angels (1st)
Lock Record: 2 for 6 (33%)
Meet Record: 14/59 $109.50

1 — 7 fur; $125,000; Joseph A. Gimma; 2YO(f)

A stake for 2YO fillies in the opener. **WITH THE ANGELS** is the filly to beat after her wire-to-wire, 11 length debut W. Daughter of Omaha Beach gets the extra furlong in the Gimma. Will have to hold off **VALTELLINA**. Rallied to win her opener, at the distance. **CARMENS CANDY JAR** is 1 for 3 after running 2nd in a stake.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	With the Angels,120	J Ortiz	1-x-x	Rice	1-2
2	Trail of Gold,120	J Velazquez	4-1-4	Donk	20-1
3	Valtellina,120	D Davis	1-x-x	Handal	3-1
4	Carmen's Candy Jar,120	I Ortiz, Jr	2-4-1	Pletcher	7-2
5	She's Our Tiz,120	K Carmouche	5-1-x	Giangiulio	10-1

2 — 1 mile; $92,000; alw; 3up(f)

The flaming hot **SMOKIN HOT KITTY** was cooled off, checking in a distant 3rd in the Johnstone Mile. It was her 1st loss at the distance in 4 starts and it snapped a 4 race winning streak on dirt. Heats up again. **SEDONA** Board hitter last 3 with similar. Rider change to Prat. **JUST MUSIC** nipped an allowance field by a neck; her 2nd win from 14 starts. **FADE TO GREY** went turf to dirt and scored gate-to-wire. Could keep Kitty company on the lead.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
2	Smokin' Hot Kitty(L),124	K Carmouche	3-1-1	De Paz	5-2
3	Sedona(L),118	F Prat	3-2-2	McGaughey III	2-1
4	Amity Island(L),122	L Luzzi	8-4-5	Persaud	30-1
5	I'm Buzzy(L),122	M Franco	5-2-3	Rodriguez	8-1
1	a-Just Music(L),120	J Ortiz	1-2-3	Rice	7-2
6	Fade to Grey(L),120	J Velazquez	1-7-x	Pletcher	5-2
1A	a-Spring Magic(L),122	J Lezcano	2-4-2	Rice	7-2

3 — 7 fur; $125,000; Bertram F. Bongard; 2YO

Seven 2YO colts seek their first stake win in the Bongard. Pletcher's **MANHATTAN TWIST** (6 1/2 furlongs) and Cox' **SACROSANCT** (6 fur) load off debut Ws at the Spa. **MCDIESEL** is 1 for 3 after reporting home a 1/2 dozen short at 32-1 in the Funny Cide. **BUTTAH** (7 fur) and **PAY THE JUICE** (5 1/2 fur) both won at 2nd asking.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Sacrosanct,120	M Franco	1-x-x	Cox	2-1
2	Oath of Omerta,118	D Davis	3-x-x	Antonucci	20-1
3	Pay the Juice,120	F Prat	1-3-x	McGaughey III	5-1
4	Manhattan Twist,120	J Ortiz	1-x-x	Pletcher	8-5
5	Smilensaycheese,120	I Ortiz, Jr	7-1-x	Maker	4-1
6	Buttah,120	L Luzzi	1-5-x	Sciacca	15-1
7	McDiesel,120	R Silvera	5-1-2	Rodriguez	12-1

4 — 1 mile; $38,000; mdn clm($30,000); 3up

Parked wide, **BERNING BEAUTY** was an ugly 5th as fave after retreating to this level. Baker hopes Prat can give him a better trip. **BIG EGO** was a clear 2nd with comparable at Saratoga under Irad. **KILKERRAN** was a wide 8th at 20-1 and **ALBEDO** a better 3rd, when they ran back and front of top pick. Kilkerran the better value again and races 1st time lasix.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Four Eyes(L),124	H Harkie	5-5-9	Follett	20-1
2	Triple Word Score(L),120	L Rivera, Jr	2-10-6	Bernardini	12-1
3	War Chrome(L),124	K Carmouche	3-8-x	Giangiulio	6-1
4	Slow Down Big Andy(L),113	C Elliott	7-12-8	Schettino	30-1
5	Stanley Rough(M),120	R Maragh	5-7-2	R Dutrow	8-1
6	Kilkerran(M),120	K Davis	8-12-x	Tagg	20-1
7	Berning Beauty(L),120	F Prat	5-10-6	Baker	9-2
8	Big Ego(L),120	I Ortiz, Jr	8-2-6	Rice	5-2
9	Albedo(L),120	J Lezcano	3-6-11	Serpe	6-1
10	Janssen(L),120	L Dettori	9-2-6	Lakeman	4-1

5 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $45,000; clm($40,000); 3up(f)

Winless thru 4 on turf, **HIGHWAY HARMONY** can pick up her lawn degree after getting outkicked deep stretch. Irad is interested; so are we. **PAM PAM** MTO. Has a win over the wet. **GRAM** moves lower for Clement after turning in 3 lengths short last 3 starts. **WISH LIST** was 3rd, a 1/2 length back of top pick.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Wish List(L),124	F Prat	3-2-1	Terranova	3-1
2	Supers Lucky Lady(L),122	R Maragh	4-3-4	Falcone	8-1
3	Artemis Girl(L),118	J Gomez	10-10-7	Donk	12-1
4	Bertrille(L),118	L Rivera, Jr	3-5-9	B Brown	30-1
5	Downtown Channel(L),120	R Santana, Jr	7-8-1	De Paz	8-1
6	Highway Harmony(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	2-4-3	Abreu	8-5
7	Miscreant(L),122	J Lezcano	6-3-4	Serpe	10-1
8	Alley's Song(L),113	F Martinez	4-7-3	Ferraro	50-1
9	Gram(L),118	D Davis	7-7-7	Clement	5-1
10	Alette d'Oro(L),120	L Luzzi	6-1-7	Ferraro	30-1
11	Diamond Status(L),122	J Gomez	8-7-3	C Martin	8-1
12	Waridi Candy(L),122	R Santana, Jr	8-7-8	De Paz	15-1
13	Union Suit(L),118	M Franco	4-2-6	Motion	5-1
14	Bella Voce(L),118	J Ortiz	5-1-2	Rice	9-2
15	Mytown Myrules(L),122	J Lezcano	5-6-5	Rice	7-2
16	Pam Pam(L),120	Rider TBA	3-3-1	Rodriguez	5-2

6 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $75,000; mdn; 2YO

Two-year-olds making two turns on the turf. **REAL SAVVY** is buried deep on the AE list. Made grass debut at this distance and lost by a game head. Prat if he draws in. **MAN OF MISCHIEF** Runnerup both dirt starts moves forward if we're off turf. **LEON BLUE** rallied from last of 10 to be a close 2nd in a promising debut. Mel Giddings stretches the Mo Town colt longer. **DAYTONA MOONSHINE** (Brown/Irad/Audible) and **JACK AND JIM** (Motion/Franco/Slumber) are live first-timers.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Miles and Miles,119	J Lezcano	6-x-x	Englehart	12-1
2	Powmissio,119	L Luzzi	9-x-x	Englehart	30-1
3	Jack and Jim,119	M Franco	x-x-x	Motion	5-1
4	Sky Masterson,119	J Alvarado	3-8-6	Contessa	12-1
5	Daytona Moonshine,119	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	C Brown	3-1
6	Pretrial Statement,119	J Gomez	x-x-x	Serpe	15-1
7	I'm Solo N in Love,119	F Prat	7-10-x	Rodriguez	20-1
8	Just Licorice,119	D Davis	x-x-x	Rice	10-1
9	Resistance Futile,112	C Elliott	6-x-x	B Brown	20-1
10	Nonno Joe,119	R Silvera	7-x-x	Rodriguez	15-1
11	Leon Blue,119	J Rosario	2-x-x	Giddings	5-2
12	Solo Mio,119	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Donk	12-1
13	Calling Card,119	D Davis	5-x-x	Maker	10-1
14	Powered by Coal,119	K Carmouche	7-x-x	Hennig	20-1
15	Real Savvy,119	F Prat	2-6-x	Clement	2-1
16	Man of Mischief,119	K Carmouche	5-2-2	McPeek	9-5

7 — 6 fur; $75,000; mdn; 2YO

More 2YOs. Wide open. These three make career debuts. Our order of finish **DAYTONA GOLD** (McPeek/Carmouche/Goldencents), **ROMEO VOID** (Giddings/Irad/Spieghtster) and **MAGNI** (Friedman/Cancel/Audible).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Hit the Post,119	L Rivera, Jr	4-x-x	Giddings	9-2
2	Skytown,119	K Davis	2-x-x	Terranova	9-2
3	Romeo Void,119	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Giddings	7-2
4	Twohonestmischief,119	L Luzzi	7-x-x	Ferraro	30-1
5	Resilient Hero,119	J Gomez	6-4-x	Jimenez	20-1
6	Magni,119	E Cancel	x-x-x	Friedman	15-1
7	Daytona Gold,119	K Carmouche	x-x-x	McPeek	6-1
8	Bold Fortune,119	D Davis	3-x-x	Weaver	6-1
9	We Miss Neil,119	J Lezcano	5-2-x	Linder	12-1
10	Beach Invasion,119	M Franco	7-x-x	Delgado	10-1
11	Just Clarity,119	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Donk	10-1

8 — 6 fur(T); $95,000; alw; 3up(f)

South African bred **FEATHER BOA** makes her US debut for Pletcher. Board hitter 15 of 17 including 4 wins. Irad on the wildcard. 1st time lasix. **SWEETEST PRINCESS** MTO. Scored in the slop here back in February. **QUARREL** ran early; faded late. Route to sprint for Ribaudo. Fast filly should benefit from the cutback. **UNION DOLLY** Up in time to top an allowance field at the Spa. 2 for 4 at Aqueduct. Contender.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Isabel Alexandra(IRE)(L),121	M Franco	4-5-12	Delgado	12-1
2	Quarrel(L),121	J Lezcano	7-6-4	Ribaudo	10-1
3	Off Ramp(L),123	L Dettori	4-1-2	Sharp	6-1
4	On the Payroll(L),123	J Velazquez	6-3-1	Margotta	15-1
5	Ever So Sweet(IRE)(L),120	F Prat	7-1-5	Cox	3-1
6	Union Dolly(L),123	D Davis	1-7-7	Handal	5-1
7	Feather Boa(SAF)(M),121	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Pletcher	5-2
8	Glitter Up(L),121	R Maragh	5-6-4	Hills	15-1
9	Cecile(L),123	J Rosario	4-1-8	Schultz	8-1
10	Miss Bonnie T(L),121	L Luzzi	6-4-8	Arenas	50-1
11	Street Jam(L),121	J Lezcano	3-2-6	Rice	7-2
12	Sweetest Princess(L),123	L Rivera, Jr	9-3-4	Abreu	8-1
13	Mosienko(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	7-4-2	R Dutrow	3-1
14	Rachel's Rock(L),121	K Carmouche	2-6-5	Giangiulio	4-1

9 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $80,000; alw; 3up(f)

NORTH END LADY finished a length back of Summer Whirl. Stretched to this distance and broke maiden next out. Prat rides for Tagg. **ROAGNA** Late move to get within a length of the winner, this level/ distance. **SUMMER WHIRL** beat top pick then 4th of 8 in the Suzie Ocain. Now 0 for 2 at this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Being Betty(L),118	J Lezcano	3-9-5	Serpe	12-1
2	Lady of Thoroton(L),122	K Davis	9-6-9	Englehart	20-1
3	Spirit of Esther(L),111	C Elliott	1-8-2	C Martin	20-1
4	Roagna(L),122	L Dettori	2-7-7	James Bond	7-2
5	Bunny Honey(L),120	I Ortiz, Jr	9-1-3	Englehart	10-1
6	My Cara Mia Mine(L),122	L Luzzi	8-1-6	Friedman	50-1
7	Bossy Jeans(L),118	M Franco	8-1-3	Maker	15-1
8	Starts Now(L),122	D Davis	6-5-1	Kantarmaci	10-1
9	Boxed Wine(L),120	J Rosario	6-3-5	Antonacci	8-1
10	Red Burgundy(M),118	R Santana, Jr	5-8-1	De Paz	6-1
11	North End Lady(L),124	F Prat	1-5-2	Tagg	5-1
12	Summer Whirl(L),120	J Velazquez	4-1-2	Motion	4-1
13	Island Fox(L),120	D Davis	9-1-4	Clement	8-1
14	Chasing Daylight(L),122	R Maragh	8-2-7	Rodriguez	15-1
15	Midnight Concerto(L),120	K Carmouche	3-3-5	McPeek	9-2
16	Miss City Girl(L),120	J Rosario	1-6-2	Clement	6-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

Put our chips on Twenty Six Black ($5.30) and cashed. All downhill from there. Dancin Jane (7-1) led but danced home fifth. Ice Road (10-1) was an ice-cold seventh. Profit on the day: +$25.50.

One play on Sunday. Bet $20 win and place on Daytona Gold in Race 7.

— *Vic Cangialosi*

Aqueduct Results

FIRST-6½ fur; $90,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO

5	Cms Tm (SntnJr.)	16.20	4.80	3.20
7	Rookie Card (Davis)		2.20	2.10
1	Fever Night (Rivera,Jr.)			6.70

● $1 Exacta (5-7) $15.30 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-7-1-6) $49.90 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-7-1) $75.37

SECOND-6 fur; $95,000; alw; 3up

3	Twnty Sx Blck (SntnJr.)	5.30	2.90	2.30
7	Biz Biz Buzz (Rivera,Jr.)		11.80	4.60
2	Anaconda (Davis)			2.80

Scr: Vacation Dance, Straight Arrow, Alpine Thunder

● $1 Daily Double (5-3) $25.25 ● $1 Exacta (3-7) $24.10 ● $1 Quinella (3-7) $16.60 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-7-2-6) $21.95 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-7-2) $37.12

Winner picked by Vic C (Lock)

THIRD-6 fur; $36,000; clm($12,500); 3up

9	Cmmrc Cmt (Dvs)	8.10	4.90	3.50
1	Jake Rocks (Franco)		4.30	3.30
5	Thank You Jon (Ramsay)			4.40

Scr: Sagamore Mischief, Bourbon Calling

● $1 Pick 3 (5-3-9) $94.50 ● $1 Daily Double (3-9) $10.00 ● $1 Exacta (9-1) $15.60 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-1-5-8) $27.90 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-1-5) $37.25

FOURTH-1 mile; $65,000; st alc($50,000); 3up

8	Emrts Rod (Frnco)	4.10	2.90	2.50
3	Night Effect (Rivera,Jr.)		6.40	3.90
1	Unstable Prince (Camacho,Jr.)			4.20

● $1 Pick 3 (3-9-8) $19.30 ● $1 Daily Double (9-8) $10.40 ● $1 Exacta (8-3) $10.10 ● $1 Quinella (3-8) $7.60 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-3-1-7) $14.72 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-3-1) $18.75

FIFTH-1 1/16 mile; $75,000; mdn; 3up (f&m)

2	Bbby M's Grl (Dvs)	7.10	3.40	2.30
6	Autumn (Cheminaud)		4.60	3.20
7	Gallant Greta (Franco)			2.30

Scr: Empire Magic, Capital Spending

● $1 Pick 3 (9-8-2) $21.40 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (3/5/8/9-9-8-2) $28.25 ● $1 Double (8-2) $6.00 ● $1 Exacta (2-6) $11.70 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-6-7-5) $12.20 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-6-7) $12.50

SIXTH-1 mile; $30,000; clm($16,000); 3up

1	Sml Mon (SntnJr.)	8.30	4.50	3.50
4	York Tavern (Elliott)		9.30	5.90
9	Beary Funny (Franco)			3.30

● $1 Pick 3 (8-2-1) $22.70 ● $1 Daily Double (2-1) $14.30 ● $1 Exacta (1-4) $22.10 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-4-9-5) $65.00 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-4-9) $35.75

SEVENTH-6 fur; $75,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO

8	Mn n Fnnc (RvrJr.)	12.20	5.80	4.00
1	Kenny Be (Ramsay)		9.20	5.30
5	Probability (Carmouche)			3.10

Scr: Daytona Gold, Twohonestmischief, Skytown, Hang On Fortheride, Hit the Post

● $1 Pick 3 (2-1-8) $112.25 ● $1 Daily Double (1-8) $26.25 ● $1 Exacta (8-1) $51.75 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-1-5-4) $164.30 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-1-5) $134.75

EIGHTH-1 mileT; $175,000; Noble Damsel; 3p

1	Ocn Club (SntnJr.)	6.80	4.00	2.90
2	Five Towns (GB) (Ruiz)		5.20	3.80
6	Breath Away (GB) (Davis)			3.40

Scr: Saffron Moon, Movie Moxy, Signal From Noise, Edict (ARG)

● $1 Pick 3 (1-8-1) $104.50 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (2-1-8-1/4/8/10/11) $197.00 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (8-2-1-8-1/4/8/10/11) $513.50 ● $1 Daily Double (8-1) $27.50 ● $1 Exacta (1-2) $11.00 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-2-6-5) $7.47 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-2-6) $17.12

NINTH-6 fur; $90,000; mdn spl wt; 3up (f&m)

8	Wudhooh (Davis)	30.00	16.80	11.20
11	Montego Bay (Gomez)		12.40	9.50
9	Fancy Qulty (GB) (Crmouche)			6.30

Scr: Chardan, Fashion Victim

● $1 Pick 3 (8-1-8) $396.00 ● $1 Daily Double (1-8) $73.00 ● $1 Exacta (8-11) $159.50 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-11-9-7) $1382.65 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-11-9) $554.25

TENTH-7 fur; $92,000; alc; 3up

3	Rddngtn (CmchJr.)	74.50	19.40	13.40
10	Classify (Carmouche)		6.10	5.60
2	General Banker (Rivera,Jr.)			7.60

● $1 Pick 3 (1-8-3) $1603.00 ● $1 Daily Double (8-3) $388.00 ● $1 Exacta (3-10) $163.50 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-10-2-5) $1066.90 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-10-2) $648.25

ELEVENTH-1 1/16 mile; $80,000; alc; 3up

4	Rabaj (Crmouche)	11.40	5.40	4.20
2	B D Saints (Cancel)		7.80	5.20
6	Dolly's Bnk (HernndezMorno)			27.20

Scr: Willintoriskitall, Russian Realm, Wine Responsibly, Slapintheface

● $1 Pick 3 (8-3-4) $2839.00 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (1/4/8/10/11-8-3-4) $4287.50 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (8-1/4/8/10/11-8-3-4) $185645.00 ● $1 Daily Double (3-4) $119.50 ● $1 Exacta (4-2) $29.50 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-2-6-1) $384.95 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-2-6) $505.25

Golf

LIV Golf Team Championship- Dallas
At Maridoe Golf Club; Carrollton, Texas; Purse: $50 million; Yardage: 7,438; Par: 72; Semifinal Rounds;

Match 1: Crushers vs. Iron Heads
Singles
Danny Lee, Iron Heads def. Bryson DeChambeau, Crushers, 2 up.
Scott Vincent, Iron Heads def. Paul Casey, Crushers, 1 up.
Foursomes
Kevin Na and Jinichiro Kozuma, Iron Heads def. Anirban Lahiri and Charles Howell III, Crushers, 3 and 1.
Match 2: Legion XIII vs. Hyflyers
Singles
Cameron Tringale, HyFlyers def. John Catlin, Legion XIII, 20th hole.
Tyrell Hatton, Legion XIII def. Andy Ogletree, HyFlyers, 5 and 4.
Foursomes
Caleb Surratt and Kieran Vincent, Legion XIII def. Phil Mickelson and Brendan Steele, HyFlyers, 4 and 3.
Match 3: Rippers vs. Fireballs
Singles
Marc Leishman, Rippers def. Eugenio Chacarra, Fireballs, 19th hole.
Lucas Herbert, Rippers def. David Puig, Fireballs, 1 up.
Foursomes
Sergio Garcia and Abraham Ancer, Fireballs def. Cameron Smith and Matt Jones, Rippers, 3 and 1.
Match 4: Stinger vs. 4Aces
Singles
Duston Johnson, 4Aces def. Dean Burmester, Stinger, 1 up.
Patrick Reed, 4Aces def. Brandon Grace, Stinger 1 up.
Foursomes
Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel, Stinger def. Harold Varner III and Pat Perez, 4Aces, 3 and 2.

DP World Tour- BMW PGA Championship
At Wentworth Club; Virginia Water, United Kingdom; Purse: $9 million; Yardage: 7,267; Par: 72
Second Round

Matthew Baldwin	65-66	131	-13
Niklas Norgaard Moller	66-67	133	-11
Antoine Rozner	69-65	134	-10
Matteo Manassero	67-68	135	-9
Rory McIlroy	67-68	135	-9
Billy Horschel,	67-69	136	-8
Aaron Cockerill	70-67	137	-7
Tommy Fleetwood	69-68	137	-7
Harry Hall	69-68	137	-7
Robert Macintyre	67-70	137	-7
Yannik Paul	71-66	137	-7
Oliver Wilson	70-67	137	-7
Rasmus Hojgaard	72-66	138	-6
Thriston Lawrence	68-70	138	-6
Eddie Pepperell	70-68	138	-6
Andy Sullivan	67-71	138	-6
Ugo Coussaud	67-71	138	-6
Marcus Armitage	67-71	138	-6
Si Woo Kim	69-69	138	-6
Shane Lowry	67-71	138	-6
Alex Noren	69-69	138	-6
Aaron Rai	68-70	138	-6
Dan Bradbury	67-71	138	-6
Jens Dantorp	70-69	139	-5
Jeff Winther	69-70	139	-5
Ewen Ferguson	71-68	139	-5
Grant Forrest	68-71	139	-5
Darius Van Driel	69-70	139	-5
Sepp Straka	71-68	139	-5
Fabrizio Zanotti	71-68	139	-5
Joe Dean	68-71	139	-5
Angel Hidalgo	71-69	140	-4
Matti Schmid	68-72	140	-4
Marcus Kinhult	69-71	140	-4
Adrian Otaegui	70-70	140	-4
Sami Valimaki	70-70	140	-4
Sam Bairstow	72-68	140	-4
Richie Ramsay	71-69	140	-4
Adam Scott	71-69	140	-4
Jorge Campillo	73-67	140	-4

Champions Tour-PURE Insurance Championship
Pebble Beach, Calif.; a-Pebble Beach Golf Links (Host Course); 6,858 yards; Par 72; b-Spyglass Hill Golf Course; 7,025 yards; Par 72; Purse: $2.3 million
Second Round

Paul Broadhurst	66b-64a	130	-14
Vijay Singh	67a-68b	135	-9
Doug Barron	71b-65a	136	-8
Paul Goydos	65a-71b	136	-8
Steven Alker	65b-72a	137	-7
Stephen Ames	70b-67a	137	-7
Glen Day	67b-70a	137	-7
Tim Herron	68a-69b	137	-7
Rocco Mediate	68a-69b	137	-7
Boo Weekley	68a-69b	137	-7

LPGA Tour- Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G
At TPC River's Bend; Maineville, Ohio; Purse: $2 million; Yardage: 6,705; Par: 72
Third Round

Jeeno Thitikul	66-66-68	200	-16
Lydia Ko	67-66-69	202	-14
Yan Liu	66-69-68	203	-13
Hae-Ran Ryu	69-65-70	204	-12
Albane Valenzuela	70-66-68	204	-12
Lindy Duncan	68-69-68	205	-11
Hyo Joon Jang	73-65-67	205	-11
Stephanie Kyriacou	69-67-69	205	-11
Bianca Pagdanganan	68-68-69	205	-11
Jasmine Suwannapura	67-69-69	205	-11

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
z-Yankees	91	64	.587	—	—	8-2	W-2	42-33	49-31
Baltimore	86	69	.555	5	+4½	4-6	L-1	44-36	42-33
Tampa Bay	77	78	.497	14	4½	6-4	W-3	41-39	36-39
Boston	76	78	.494	14½	5	3-7	L-2	35-41	41-37
Toronto	73	82	.471	18	8½	5-5	L-2	38-37	35-45
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	***WGB**	**L10**	**Streak**	**Home**	**Away**
x-Cleveland	90	66	.577	—	—	6-4	L-1	48-28	42-38
Kansas City	82	73	.529	7½	+½	3-7	L-6	45-35	37-38
Minnesota	81	73	.526	8	—	5-5	W-1	42-33	39-40
Detroit	81	74	.523	8½	½	7-3	W-1	39-36	42-38
Chicago	36	119	.232	53½	45½	3-7	L-4	20-58	16-61
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	***WGB**	**L10**	**Streak**	**Home**	**Away**
Houston	85	70	.548	—	—	8-2	W-3	45-32	40-38
Seattle	80	75	.516	5	1½	7-3	W-3	46-32	34-43
Texas	73	82	.471	12	8½	3-7	L-3	43-37	30-45
Oakland	67	88	.432	18	14½	4-6	L-2	36-41	31-47
Los Angeles	62	93	.400	23	19½	2-8	L-3	32-46	30-47

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race
x-clinched division
z-clinched playoff berth

Saturday
Yankees 10, Oakland 0
Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 2
San Francisco 9, Kansas City 0
Detroit 6, Baltimore 4, 10 inn.
St. Louis 6, Cleveland 5
Houston 10, L.A. Angels 4
Seattle 8, Texas 4
San Diego 6, White Sox 2
Minnesota at Boston, ppd.

Sunday
Yankees at Oakland, 4:07
Minnesota at Boston, 12:35, 1st game
Detroit at Baltimore, 1:35
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 1:40
L.A. Angels at Houston, 2:10
San Francisco at Kansas City, 2:10
Cleveland at St. Louis, 2:15
Seattle at Texas, 2:35
White Sox at San Diego, 4:10
Minnesota at Boston, 5:35, 2nd game

Monday
Boston at Toronto, 7:07
Seattle at Houston, 8:10

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
z-Philadelphia	92	63	.594	—	—	5-5	L-1	52-26	40-37
Mets	86	69	.555	6	—	7-3	W-1	45-35	41-34
Atlanta	84	71	.542	8	2	5-5	W-1	42-33	42-38
Washington	69	86	.445	23	17	4-6	W-1	36-39	33-47
Miami	57	98	.368	35	29	3-7	L-1	30-50	27-48
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	***WGB**	**L10**	**Streak**	**Home**	**Away**
x-Milwaukee	88	67	.568	—	—	5-5	L-3	44-33	44-34
Chicago	79	76	.510	9	7	4-6	L-1	41-36	38-40
St. Louis	78	77	.503	10	8	5-5	W-1	43-37	35-40
Cincinnati	76	80	.487	12½	10½	5-5	W-2	39-41	37-39
Pittsburgh	72	83	.465	16	14	3-7	L-2	38-40	34-43
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	***WGB**	**L10**	**Streak**	**Home**	**Away**
z-Los Angeles	92	63	.594	—	—	6-4	L-1	49-28	43-35
San Diego	89	66	.574	3	+3	8-2	W-3	44-36	45-30
Arizona	87	68	.561	5	+1	6-4	W-4	42-33	45-35
San Francisco	76	79	.490	16	10	5-5	W-2	41-37	35-42
Colorado	60	95	.387	32	26	6-4	W-1	36-39	24-56

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race
x-clinched division
z-clinched playoff berth

Saturday
Mets 6, Philadelphia 3
Cincinnati 7, Pittsburgh 1
Washington 5, Cubs 1
Atlanta 6, Miami 2
San Francisco 9, Kansas City 0
Arizona 5, Milwaukee 0
St. Louis 6, Cleveland 5
San Diego 6, White Sox 2
Colorado 6, L.A. Dodgers 3

Sunday
Philadelphia at **Mets**, 7:15
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 1:10
Atlanta at Miami, 1:40
Arizona at Milwaukee, 2:10
San Francisco at Kansas City, 2:10
Cleveland at St. Louis, 2:15
Washington at Cubs, 2:20
White Sox at San Diego, 4:10
Colorado at L.A. Dodgers, 4:10

Monday
Cubs at Philadelphia, 6:40
San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40

Yankees 10, Athletics 0

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Torres 2b	6	1	3	2	0	0	.253
Soto rf	6	2	2	0	0	0	.288
Judge cf	3	2	2	1	1	1	.321
Grisham cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.187
Stanton dh	4	2	2	3	1	1	.234
Domínguez lf	4	0	1	1	1	2	.194
Berti 3b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.283
Volpe ss	4	2	1	2	1	0	.248
Cabrera 1b	4	1	0	0	1	2	.247
Trevino c	4	0	1	0	1	1	.217
Totals	**40**	**10**	**14**	**9**	**6**	**8**	

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Butler rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.269
Noda rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.128
Rooker dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.299
Langeliers c	2	0	2	0	1	0	.224
McCann c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Bleday cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Schuemann cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Gelof 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.213
Cameron lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.201
Nevin 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.199
Wilson ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.225
Allen 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.172
Totals	**30**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**8**	

Yankees	213 000 400 —	10 14 0
Oakland	000 000 000 —	0 5 2

E: Butler (4), Gelof (7). **LOB:** New York 10, Oakland 4. **2B:** Langeliers (17). **HR:** Volpe (12), off Sears; Stanton (26), off Sears; Judge (54), off Bielak. **RBIs:** Domínguez (2), Volpe 2 (59), Stanton 3 (67), Judge (137), Torres 2 (61). **SB:** Domínguez (4), Butler (17), Volpe (27), Berti (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 7 (Soto 3, Volpe, Berti, Trevino 2); Oakland 2 (Bleday, Rooker). **RISP:** New York 3 for 12; Oakland 0 for 4.

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodón, W, 16-9	6.0	5	0	0	1	4	90	3.98
Leiter	2.0	0	0	0	0	3	27	5.68
Mayza	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	3.94

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sears, L, 11-12	5.0	9	6	6	2	6	93	4.43
Bielak	1.2	2	4	4	4	1	45	4.38
Harris	2.1	3	0	0	0	1	40	2.99

T: 2:39. **A:** 33,198 (46,847).

Mets 6, Phillies 3

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schwarber dh	4	1	1	1	0	1	.251
Turner ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.296
Harper 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.285
Bohm 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.288
Castellanos rf	3	1	1	1	0	0	.246
Realmuto c	3	1	1	0	0	1	.267
Sosa 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Stott ph-2b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.245
Wilson lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.284
Marsh ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Rojas cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Stevenson ph-cf	1	0	0	1	0	0	.250
Totals	**31**	**3**	**4**	**3**	**0**	**8**	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Iglesias 2b-3b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.335
Marte dh	3	1	0	0	2	0	.273
Vientos 3b	5	0	0	0	0	5	.267
E.Alvarez 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Alonso 1b	1	1	1	1	3	0	.245
Nimmo lf	5	1	1	1	0	1	.227
Taylor rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.249
F.Alvarez c	4	1	2	3	0	0	.238
Bader cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.241
Acuña ss	3	1	2	1	1	0	.385
Totals	**33**	**6**	**9**	**6**	**7**	**8**	

Philadelphia	100 010 010 —	3 4 0
Mets	020 000 31x —	6 9 0

LOB: Philadelphia 1, New York 11. **2B:** Iglesias (16), Acuña (2), F.Alvarez (13). **HR:** Schwarber (36), off Manaea; Castellanos (22), off Manaea; F.Alvarez (11), off Suárez; Acuña (3), off Suárez. **RBIs:** Schwarber (99), Castellanos (84), Stevenson (6), F.Alvarez 3 (44), Acuña (6), Nimmo (86), Alonso (88). **SB:** Nimmo (14). **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 0; New York 6 (F.Alvarez, Bader, Nimmo 2, Iglesias 2). **RISP:** Philadelphia 0 for 2; New York 3 for 12.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Suárez	5.0	5	2	2	3	4	91	3.15
Ruiz	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	20	3.59
Kerkering, L, 5-3	0.2	2	3	3	1	2	25	2.35
Alvarado	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	4	4.22
Banks	1.0	1	1	1	2	1	19	3.00

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Manaea, W, 12-5	7.0	3	3	3	0	6	89	3.29
Garrett, H, 14	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	10	3.18
Díaz, S, 19-25	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	17	3.49

T: 2:23. **A:** 44,152 (42,136).

Nationals 5, Cubs 1

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crews cf-rf	4	0	0	0	1	1	.202
Wood lf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.262
García dh	5	1	2	0	0	1	.281
Yepez 1b	4	2	2	0	0	1	.281
Young cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Tena 2b	4	1	3	0	0	1	.306
Ruiz c	3	0	0	1	0	1	.226
Gallo rf-1b	3	1	2	3	1	0	.164
Vargas 3b	3	0	2	1	0	0	.255
Nuñez ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.262
Totals	**34**	**5**	**12**	**5**	**2**	**8**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Happ lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.247
Swanson ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.241
Bellinger rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.266
Wisdom dh	3	1	1	1	1	1	.186
Busch 1b	1	0	0	1	1	1	.250
Hoerner 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.269
Amaya c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.225
Crow-Armstrong cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Vázquez 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Totals	**27**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**9**	

Washington	010 004 000 —	5 12 0
Chicago	000 000 100 —	1 2 0

LOB: Washington 7, Chicago 3. **HR:** Gallo (9), off Thompson; Wisdom (8), off Gore. **RBIs:** Vargas (30), Ruiz (53), Gallo 3 (24), Wisdom (23). **CS:** García (5). **SF:** Vargas, Ruiz. **S:** Nuñez. **Runners left in scoring position:** Washington 4 (Nuñez, Wood, García 2); Chicago 2 (Wisdom, Amaya). **RISP:** Washington 2 for 8; Chicago 0 for 3.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gore, W, 10-12	7.0	1	1	1	3	9	94	4.04
Ferrer	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3.25
Finnegan	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	14	3.25

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hendricks, L, 4-12	5.1	9	4	4	1	2	91	6.28
Thompson	0.2	1	1	1	0	1	12	2.83
Wesneski	2.0	0	0	0	0	4	25	3.82
Wingenter	1.0	2	0	0	1	1	19	3.60

T: 2:23. **A:** 38,819 (41,363).

Astros 10, Angels 4

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ward lf	4	0	2	0	0	2	.249
Neto ss	5	0	0	0	0	4	.245
Schanuel 1b	4	0	1	1	1	0	.251
Kavadas dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.175
Stefanic p	1	0	0	0	0	1	.214
Wagaman 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.256
Moniak cf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.220
O'Hoppe c	4	2	4	1	0	0	.239
Campero rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.292
López 2b	4	0	2	1	0	1	.178
Totals	**37**	**4**	**10**	**3**	**2**	**16**	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	5	1	1	1	0	1	.296
Kessinger pr-2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Alvarez dh	5	2	4	1	0	0	.305
Salazar ph-dh	1	0	1	0	0	0	.333
Tucker rf	4	1	4	2	1	0	.289
Heyward rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Bregman 3b	4	0	0	0	1	0	.254
Whitcomb 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Diaz c	5	1	2	0	0	2	.300
Peña ss	4	2	2	0	1	1	.270
Caratini 1b	4	2	2	3	1	0	.276
Meyers cf	3	1	2	0	2	0	.223
Dubón lf	5	0	2	1	0	0	.269
Totals	**41**	**10**	**20**	**8**	**6**	**4**	

Los Angeles	010 100 002 —	4 10 1
Houston	124 100 20x —	10 20 1

E: Moniak (3), Dubón (18). **LOB:** Los Angeles 9, Houston 14. **2B:** Schanuel (19), O'Hoppe 2 (16), López (1), Alvarez (33), Tucker (13), Diaz 2 (28), Meyers (20), Peña (27). **HR:** O'Hoppe (20), off Blanco; Caratini (7), off Detmers; Alvarez (35), off Miller; Tucker (22), off Miller. **RBIs:** O'Hoppe (56), López (4), Schanuel (53), Tucker 2 (47), Altuve (64), Caratini 3 (27), Dubón (47), Alvarez (86). **SB:** Meyers (11). **RISP:** Los Angeles 2 for 13; Houston 7 for 20.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Detmers, L, 4-8	2.0	9	7	7	3	3	66	6.67
Fulmer	3.0	7	1	1	1	1	57	4.01
Zuñiga	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	16	4.40
Miller	1.0	3	2	2	1	0	27	5.23
Stefanic	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	15	0.00

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Blanco, W, 12-6	6.0	7	2	2	2	9	104	2.88
Ort	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	2.62
Ferguson	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	15	3.66
Martinez	1.0	3	2	2	0	2	25	3.33

T: 2:49. **A:** 40,502 (41,000).

Rockies 6, Dodgers 3

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Blackmon dh	4	2	2	2	1	1	.251
Tovar ss	4	0	1	2	1	1	.266
McMahon 3b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.244
Toglia 1b	4	0	0	1	0	2	.217
Rodgers 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.265
Hilliard cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.261
Jones lf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.209
Cave rf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.252
Stallings c	3	1	1	0	0	0	.261
Totals	**35**	**6**	**8**	**6**	**2**	**14**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	3	1	1	0	1	1	.297
Betts rf	5	1	2	2	0	1	.293
Freeman 1b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.281
T.Hernández lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.267
Edman cf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.274
Muncy 3b	3	1	0	0	2	2	.236
Lux 2b	3	0	1	0	1	2	.246
Rojas ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.289
Feduccia c	4	0	1	1	0	0	.333
Totals	**33**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**7**	**9**	

Colorado	120 010 002 —	6 8 1
Los Angeles	002 100 000 —	3 7 1

E: McMahon (15), Lux (9). **LOB:** Colorado 5, Los Angeles 12. **2B:** Blackmon (23), Tovar (44), Stallings (16), Cave (14). **HR:** McMahon (20), off Buehler; Blackmon (11), off Hudson; Betts (18), off Quantrill. **RBIs:** Toglia (53), Tovar 2 (74), McMahon (63), Blackmon 2 (48), Betts 2 (72), Feduccia (1). **SB:** Toglia (9), Betts (16), Hilliard (5), Ohtani (53). **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 5 (McMahon 2, Hilliard 2, Cave); Los Angeles 5 (Ohtani, Lux 2, Muncy 2). **RISP:** Colorado 2 for 13; Los Angeles 1 for 8.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Quantrill	4.2	6	3	3	4	5	100	4.72
Peralta	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	15	0.00
Vodnik, W, 5-3	1.2	0	0	0	0	1	15	4.04
Chivilli, H, 6	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	14	3.29
Halvorsen, S, 1-1	1.0	1	0	0	2	1	23	0.00

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Buehler, L, 1-6	5.1	5	4	4	1	9	89	5.63
Vesia	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	8	1.82
Honeywell	2.0	1	0	0	1	1	34	2.78
Hudson	1.0	2	2	2	0	2	22	3.10

T: 2:53. **A:** 52,267 (56,000).

Rays 3, Blue Jays 2

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Springer dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.219
Lukes lf-rf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.327
Guerrero 3b	5	0	3	0	0	0	.324
Horwitz 1b	3	1	2	1	1	1	.275
Kirk c	4	0	1	1	0	1	.247
Barger rf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.206
Clement ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Schneider 2b-lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.198
Jiménez ss-2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.218
Loperfido cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.213
Totals	**36**	**2**	**9**	**2**	**3**	**9**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	3	1	1	0	1	0	.283
B.Lowe 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.242
Caminero 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.248
Caballero pr-3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Aranda 1b	3	2	2	2	1	0	.248
Morel lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.195
DeLuca rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.213
J.Lowe rf-lf	1	0	0	0	2	0	.242
Siri cf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.192
Rortvedt c	3	0	1	1	0	0	.226
Walls ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.184
Totals	**28**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**6**	

Toronto	000 010 100 —	2 9 0
Tampa Bay	012 000 00x —	3 7 0

LOB: Toronto 10, Tampa Bay 5. **2B:** Loperfido (8). **3B:** Kirk (1). **HR:** Aranda (5), off Y.Rodríguez. **RBIs:** Horwitz (37), Kirk (50), Rortvedt (31), Aranda 2 (11). **SB:** Barger (2), J.Lowe (25). **CS:** B.Lowe (1), Caballero (15). **Runners left in scoring position:** Toronto 7 (Kirk 3, Springer 2, Loperfido, Clement); Tampa Bay 2 (Walls 2). **RISP:** Toronto 1 for 9; Tampa Bay 2 for 8.

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Y.Rodríguez, L, 1-7	4.0	4	3	3	3	3	81	4.41
Nance	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	20	3.60
Little	1.1	0	0	0	1	1	12	3.53
Tate	0.1	2	0	0	0	0	7	0.00
Cabrera	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	3.00

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bradley, W, 7-11	5.0	6	1	1	2	4	103	4.30
Montgomery, H, 3	0.2	2	0	0	0	1	18	1.59
M.Rodríguez, H, 10	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2.00
Cleavinger, H, 15	1.0	1	1	1	1	1	16	3.51
Rasmussen, S, 1-1	2.0	0	0	0	0	3	28	2.55

T: 2:47. **A:** 20,704 (25,025).

Tigers 6, Orioles 4, 10 inn.

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ibáñez 2b-1b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.248
W.Pérez rf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.238
Vierling 3b	4	2	1	0	1	2	.259
Greene lf	4	3	3	1	1	1	.264
Malloy dh	1	0	0	0	1	0	.207
Carpenter ph-dh	1	0	1	0	0	0	.286
Rogers ph-dh	1	0	1	1	0	0	.199
Jung ph-dh	1	0	0	1	0	0	.243
Torkelson 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.217
Keith ph-2b	0	0	0	1	0	0	.264
McKinstry 2b	0	0	0	1	0	0	.219
Sweeney ss	5	1	2	0	0	1	.247
Dingler c	4	0	2	2	1	1	.143
Meadows cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.238
Totals	**38**	**6**	**11**	**6**	**4**	**11**	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	5	0	1	2	0	1	.282
Mullins cf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.227
Santander rf-1b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Cowser lf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.246
Rutschman c	4	2	1	0	1	0	.250
O'Hearn 1b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.259
diménez ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.232
L.Soto 3b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.300
Kjerstad dh	4	1	3	0	0	1	.271
Rivera 3b-1b	3	0	2	2	0	0	.278
Johnson pr-rf	1	1	0	0	0	0	.000
Holliday 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.169
Totals	**38**	**4**	**10**	**4**	**4**	**5**	

Detroit	020 000 020 2 —	6 11 0
Baltimore	010 001 002 0 —	4 10 0

LOB: Detroit 9, Baltimore 11. **2B:** Sweeney (4), Jung (4), Henderson (30). **3B:** Dingler (2). **RBIs:** Dingler 2 (10), Rogers (36), Keith (59), Greene (72), McKinstry (23), Rivera 2 (13), Henderson 2 (89). **SF:** Keith, McKinstry, Rivera. **Runners left in scoring position:** Detroit 4 (Meadows 2, W.Pérez, Dingler); Baltimore 6 (Rivera, Holliday 2, Cowser 2, Johnson). **RISP:** Detroit 3 for 12; Baltimore 3 for 12.

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Olson	3.0	1	1	1	1	3	58	3.49
Hurter	2.2	5	1	1	1	0	47	2.61
Vest, BS, 2-8	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	10	3.00
Guenther	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	24	1.04
Foley, BS, 25-29	0.0	3	2	2	1	0	16	3.28
Brieske, W, 3-4	2.0	0	0	0	1	1	23	3.65

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Povich	5.0	2	2	2	3	7	89	5.59
Bowman	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	14	0.69
Akin	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	17	3.23
C.Pérez	0.0	3	2	2	0	0	11	4.11
Domínguez	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	20	3.54
G.Soto	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5.87
Baker	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	4.50
Cano, L, 4-3	1.0	2	2	1	0	2	17	2.84

T: 3:20. **A:** 39,647 (45,971).

Braves 6, Marlins 2

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Harris cf	5	0	3	0	0	1	.260
Albies 2b	5	1	1	0	0	0	.253
Ozuna dh	4	1	3	0	1	0	.310
Olson 1b	4	1	2	3	1	0	.243
Soler rf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.233
White rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Laureano lf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.309
d'Arnaud c	5	0	0	0	0	4	.239
Urshela 3b	4	1	2	2	0	0	.252
Arcia ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.217
Totals	**41**	**6**	**14**	**6**	**2**	**11**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Norby dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.274
Burger 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.246
Bride 1b	3	2	1	0	1	2	.255
Hill lf-cf	4	0	2	1	0	0	.234
Lopez 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Sanoja ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.276
Conine ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.230
Sánchez rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.247
Pache cf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.183
Stowers ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Fortes c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Totals	**33**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**10**	

Atlanta	010 010 400 —	6 14 1
Miami	100 001 000 —	2 6 0

E: Albies (3). **LOB:** Atlanta 10, Miami 6. **2B:** Laureano (12). **3B:** Hill (1). **HR:** Soler (9), off Oller; Olson (29), off Bachar; Urshela (2), off Bachar. **RBIs:** Soler (23), Olson 3 (97), Urshela 2 (12), Hill (18). **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 4 (Albies, Laureano 3); Miami 3 (Lopez, Norby, Sanoja). **RISP:** Atlanta 2 for 8; Miami 0 for 5.

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Fried, W, 10-10	6.0	5	2	1	1	6	100	3.42
Johnson	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	3.52
Jiménez	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	17	2.34
Iglesias	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	15	1.84

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Oller	5.2	8	2	2	2	7	92	5.06
Veneziano	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	5	2.53
Bachar, L, 0-1	0.2	4	4	4	0	1	20	6.75
Curry	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	3	3.00
Petersen	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	29	4.91

T: 2:43. **A:** 25,225 (37,446).

Giants 9, Royals 0

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yastrzemski rf	4	1	1	3	0	1	.235
Encarnación ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.258
Ramos lf	5	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Wade 1b	4	2	2	2	0	1	.267
Chapman 3b	4	2	2	2	0	1	.249
Schmitt 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.237
Conforto dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.232
Fitzgerald ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.291
McCray cf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.208
Walton 2b	3	1	0	0	0	2	.100
Casali c	4	1	2	2	0	1	.194
Totals	36	9	9	9	1	10	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Frazier rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.203
Witt ss	3	0	1	0	1	0	.334
DeJong 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.233
Massey 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.253
Perez 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.273
Hampson 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.229
Melendez lf	3	0	2	0	1	0	.213
Gurriel dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.333
Fermin c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.278
Isbel cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.232
Garcia 3b-ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Totals	32	0	5	0	3	6	

San Francisco	100 206 000 —	9 9 0
Kansas City	000 000 000 —	0 5 0

LOB: San Francisco 2, Kansas City 8. **2B:** Conforto (26), Witt (45), Melendez (23). **HR:** Wade 2 (8), off Singer; Chapman 2 (26), off Singer; Yastrzemski (18), off Hernández. **RBIs:** Wade 2 (33), Chapman 2 (75), Casali 2 (8), Yastrzemski 3 (56). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 0; Kansas City 5 (Garcia, Isbel, Perez 2, Massey). **RISP:** San Francisco 3 for 4; Kansas City 0 for 9.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Roupp, W, 1-1	5.0	3	0	0	3	3	87	2.70
Bivens	2.0	2	0	0	0	2	28	2.76
Beck	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	1.64

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Singer, L, 9-12	5.1	7	6	6	1	6	88	3.73
Hernández	0.2	2	3	3	0	0	20	3.76
Lynch	1.2	0	0	0	0	3	20	3.72
Cruz	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	10	0.00

T: 2:14. **A:** 24,189 (38,427).

Reds 7, Pirates 1

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kiner-Falefa 3b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.247
Reynolds lf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.276
O.Cruz dh	3	0	1	0	2	0	.268
Gonzales ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.272
B.De La Cruz rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.192
Grandal c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.220
Joe 1b	3	0	1	0	1	2	.228
Yorke 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.263
Cook cf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.226
Totals	35	1	7	1	4	9	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
India 2b	4	1	0	0	0	0	.245
E.De La Cruz ss	5	2	3	4	0	1	.263
Stephenson c	4	1	1	1	0	3	.264
France 1b	3	1	1	2	1	1	.275
Friedl cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.227
Espinal dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.254
Fraley rf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.279
Marte 3b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.213
Benson lf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.190
Totals	33	7	9	7	4	7	

Pittsburgh	000 000 001 —	1 7 0
Cincinnati	003 301 00x —	7 9 1

E: Marte (12). **LOB:** Pittsburgh 11, Cincinnati 7. **2B:** E.De La Cruz (35). **HR:** Cook (2), off Busenitz; France (5), off Jones; E.De La Cruz (25), off Jones. **RBIs:** Cook (6), Stephenson (65), France 2 (20), E.De La Cruz 4 (74). **SB:** Benson (16). **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 5 (Yorke 2, Gonzales, B.De La Cruz 2); Cincinnati 2 (Marte, Stephenson). **RISP:** Pittsburgh 1 for 6; Cincinnati 4 for 7.

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jones, L, 6-8	5.0	6	6	6	3	5	90	4.14
Beeks	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	16	4.19
Bednar	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	21	6.05
Borucki	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	6	5.59

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lowder, W, 2-2	5.0	5	0	0	2	4	87	1.40
Farmer	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	3.09
Wilson	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	23	5.32
Zulueta	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	21	5.40
Busenitz	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	14	13.50

T: 2:28. **A:** 25,574 (43,891).

Cardinals 6, Guardians 5

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Martínez lf	5	1	1	0	0	2	.246
Manzardo dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Fry ph-dh	2	1	1	0	0	1	.260
Ramírez 3b	4	1	2	3	0	0	.276
J.Naylor 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Thomas cf-rf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.218
Giménez 2b	4	0	3	1	0	0	.257
Noel rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.226
Brennan ph-rf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.255
Straw ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
B.Naylor c	4	1	1	1	0	1	.202
Rocchio ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.208
Totals	37	5	10	5	1	9	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Winn ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.267
Baker dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.189
Burleson ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.269
Goldschmidt 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.245
Arenado 3b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.268
Herrera c	3	2	2	3	1	1	.293
Donovan lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.273
Walker rf	3	1	1	2	1	1	.191
Nootbaar rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Saggese 2b	4	0	0	0	0	4	.171
Siani cf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.236
Totals	32	6	8	5	3	10	

Cleveland	000 010 040 —	5 10 2
St. Louis	000 200 40x —	6 8 1

E: Giménez (8), J.Naylor (9), Mikolas (2). **LOB:** Cleveland 6, St. Louis 6. **2B:** Ramírez (36), Giménez (22), Winn (28), Herrera (11). **HR:** B.Naylor (13), off Mikolas; Ramírez (37), off Romero; Walker (5), off Boyd; Herrera (4), off Sandlin. **RBIs:** B.Naylor (39), Ramírez 3 (112), Giménez (63), Walker 2 (48), Herrera 3 (26). **SB:** Brennan (4). **CS:** Arenado (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 4 (Giménez, Rocchio 2, B.Naylor); St. Louis 2 (Saggese, Arenado). **RISP:** Cleveland 1 for 8; St. Louis 2 for 9.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Boyd, L, 2-2	4.0	4	2	2	3	6	88	2.72
Morgan	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	20	1.60
Herrin	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	1.87
Sandlin	1.0	2	4	0	0	0	25	3.86
Walters	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	9	0.00

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mikolas, W, 9-11	6.0	4	1	1	0	4	81	5.35
Kittredge, H, 35	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	17	2.97
Romero	0.1	3	4	4	1	0	16	3.36
Liberatore, H, 6	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	10	4.46
Helsley, S, 46-50	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	12	2.12

T: 2:39. **A:** 41,317 (44,494).

Padres 6, White Sox 2

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Vargas 3b	2	1	0	0	3	0	.108
Robert cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.226
Vaughn 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.246
Sosa 2b	3	0	2	1	0	0	.247
Ramos dh	3	0	0	1	1	1	.177
Fletcher rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.208
Amaya ss	4	0	0	0	0	4	.217
DeLoach lf	4	0	0	0	0	4	.160
Robinson c	3	0	1	0	1	0	.148
Totals	30	2	4	2	6	12	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 1b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.322
Tatis rf	5	0	2	0	0	1	.283
Profar lf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.283
Machado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.277
Merrill cf	3	1	2	1	1	0	.294
Bogaerts ss	4	1	1	2	0	0	.260
Cronenworth 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.244
D.Peralta dh	4	2	2	1	0	1	.271
Díaz c	3	1	2	2	1	0	.188
Totals	35	6	11	6	3	6	

Chicago	000 001 010 —	2 4 0
San Diego	020 110 02x —	6 11 0

LOB: Chicago 9, San Diego 8. **2B:** Tatis 2 (20), Profar (28), D.Peralta (11). **HR:** Bogaerts (11), off Flexen; D.Peralta (8), off Flexen; Díaz (1), off De Los Santos. **RBIs:** Sosa (29), Ramos (6), Bogaerts 2 (41), D.Peralta (27), Merrill (89), Díaz 2 (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 5 (Robert, Vaughn, Fletcher 2, Amaya); San Diego 3 (Bogaerts 2, Cronenworth). **RISP:** Chicago 1 for 9; San Diego 2 for 11.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Flexen, L, 2-15	5.0	8	4	4	2	3	96	5.15
Soroka	2.0	1	0	0	1	3	35	5.09
De Los Santos	1.0	2	2	2	0	0	15	4.46

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pérez, W, 3-0	5.1	2	1	1	3	6	81	2.61
Hoeing, H, 2	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	8	0.87
Estrada, H, 14	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	7	2.93
Adam, H, 10	0.1	1	1	1	2	0	24	1.11
Scott, S, 4-4	1.2	1	0	0	1	3	24	2.19

T: 2:38. **A:** 45,360 (40,222).

Diamondbacks 5, Brewers 0

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Carroll rf	2	1	0	0	3	0	.230
Marte 2b	2	2	2	2	3	0	.296
Pederson dh	2	1	1	2	0	0	.280
Grichuk ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.285
Bell ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.276
Walker 1b	5	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Smith lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.282
McCarthy cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.286
Suárez 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.256
Perdomo ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.273
Herrera c	4	1	1	1	0	1	.226
Totals	33	5	6	5	6	7	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Sánchez ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.220
Hoskins dh	3	0	0	0	0	3	.211
Mitchell rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Chourio ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.271
Adames ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.247
Bauers 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.192
Perkins cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Ortiz 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.237
Frelick lf-rf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.257
Monasterio ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.208
Haase c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.288
Totals	28	0	2	0	0	13	

Arizona	200 010 002 —	5 6 0
Milwaukee	000 000 000 —	0 2 1

E: Haase (2). **LOB:** Arizona 8, Milwaukee 1. **HR:** Pederson (23), off Civale; Herrera (1), off Civale; Marte (34), off Ross. **RBIs:** Pederson 2 (63), Herrera (13), Marte 2 (92). **SB:** Carroll 2 (32), Marte (7). **Runners left in scoring position:** Arizona 4 (Grichuk 2, Walker, Perdomo); Milwaukee 0. **RISP:** Arizona 1 for 5; Milwaukee 0 for 2.

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kelly, W, 5-0	5.0	2	0	0	0	6	72	3.71
Mantiply, H, 15	2.0	0	0	0	0	4	25	3.61
Ginkel, H, 18	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	3.33
Puk	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	0.36

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Civale, L, 5-3	4.1	3	3	3	3	2	91	3.84
Milner	1.2	0	0	0	0	2	16	4.82
Megill	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	26	2.84
Ross	1.1	3	2	2	1	2	30	3.99
Herget	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	5	1.59

T: 2:42. **A:** 35,068 (41,700).

Mariners 8, Rangers 4

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Rodríguez cf	6	2	4	4	0	0	.273
Raleigh c	5	0	2	1	1	1	.213
Arozarena lf	4	1	1	1	1	0	.233
Raley rf-1b	5	0	1	0	0	3	.243
Turner 1b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.262
Rivas 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Polanco dh	5	0	3	1	0	0	.205
Robles pr-dh	0	1	0	0	0	0	.337
Crawford ss	4	1	2	0	1	0	.205
Moore 2b-1b-3b	3	2	0	0	1	2	.204
Rojas 3b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.228
Haniger ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Totals	42	8	16	7	4	10	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Semien 2b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.232
Smith ss	5	1	2	2	0	1	.262
Langford lf	4	1	2	0	1	0	.253
García dh	5	0	1	0	0	3	.221
Lowe 1b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.263
Duran 3b	5	1	2	1	0	0	.253
Taveras cf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.227
Kelly c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.233
Jankowski rf	3	1	2	1	1	0	.213
Totals	39	4	12	4	4	7	

Seattle	200 003 003 —	8 16 0
Texas	002 002 000 —	4 12 1

E: Duran (5). **LOB:** Seattle 12, Texas 12. **2B:** Polanco (10), Jankowski 2 (5). **3B:** Crawford (2). **HR:** Rodríguez (19), off Dunning; Smith (13), off Hancock. **RBIs:** Rodríguez 4 (63), Polanco (42), Raleigh (94), Arozarena (21), Smith 2 (59), Duran (20), Jankowski (12). **SB:** Rodríguez (23), Langford (16), Semien (7), Moore (31). **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 5 (Crawford, Arozarena, Turner, Moore 2); Texas 7 (Taveras, Semien 2, Duran, Kelly, Smith 2). **RISP:** Seattle 5 for 11; Texas 3 for 11.

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hancock, W, 4-4	5.0	5	2	2	0	3	79	4.72
Taylor, H, 6	0.2	1	2	2	3	2	33	2.76
Snider, H, 9	0.2	2	0	0	1	0	26	1.35
Saucedo, H, 6	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.65
Voth, H, 14	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	20	3.75
Bazardo	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	14	5.33

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Dunning	3.2	7	2	2	1	5	81	5.36
Chafin, L, 1-1	1.2	3	2	2	2	0	34	4.67
Leclerc	1.2	3	1	1	0	2	47	4.52
Robertson	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	15	3.18
Pennington	0.2	2	3	3	0	2	27	3.12
Garabito	0.1	1	0	0	0	1	10	4.81

T: 3:26. **A:** 39,929 (40,000).

AL Leaders

BATTING: Witt, Kan, .334; V.Guerrero, Tor, .324; Judge, NY, .321; Y.Alvarez, Houston, .305; Diaz, Houston, .300; Rooker, Oak, .299; Altuve, Houston, .296; Kwan, Cle, .291; J.Soto, NY, .288; Ja.Duran, Bos, .285. **RUNS:** Witt, Kan, 124; J.Soto, NY, 122; Judge, NY, 116; Henderson, Bal, 115; J.Ramírez, Cle, 109; Ja.Duran, Bos, 104; V.Guerrero, Tor, 97; Semien, Tex, 95; Altuve, Houston, 90; Volpe, NY, 90. **RBIs:** Judge, NY, 137; J.Ramírez, Cle, 112; Rooker, Oak, 110; Witt, Kan, 108; J.Naylor, Cle, 105; J.Soto, NY, 104; Perez, Kan, 103; Santander, Bal, 99; V.Guerrero, Tor, 99; Pasquantino, Kan, 97. **HITS:** Witt, Kan, 205; V.Guerrero, Tor, 191; Ja.Duran, Bos, 182; Altuve, Houston, 181; Judge, NY, 174; Henderson, Bal, 172; Diaz, Houston, 169; Y.Alvarez, Houston, 168; J.Ramírez, Cle, 166; J.Soto, NY, 160. **DOUBLES:** Ja.Duran, Bos, 45; Witt, Kan, 45; Bleday, Oak, 43; V.Guerrero, Tor, 42; J.Ramírez, Cle, 36; Judge, NY, 35; Devers, Bos, 34; Y.Alvarez, Houston, 33; Neto, LA, 32; W.Abreu, Bos, 31. **TRIPLES:** Ja.Duran, Bos, 13; Witt, Kan, 11; Isbel, Kan, 8; Henderson, Bal, 7; Varsho, Tor, 7; Volpe, NY, 7; Greene, Det, 6; Meadows, Det, 6; 9 tied at 5. **HOME RUNS:** Judge, NY, 54; Santander, Bal, 43; J.Soto, NY, 40; Rooker, Oak, 38; J.Ramírez, Cle, 37; Henderson, Bal, 37; Y.Alvarez, Houston, 35; Witt, Kan, 32; O'Neill, Bos, 31; J.Naylor, Cle, 31. **STOLEN BASES:** Caballero, Tam, 44; J.Ramírez, Cle, 40; Garcia, Kan, 37; Ja.Duran, Bos, 34; D.Hamilton, Bos, 33; D.Moore, Sea, 31; Giménez, Cle, 30; Mullins, Bal, 30; Neto, LA, 30; Witt, Kan, 30. **PITCHING:** Skubal, Det, 17-4; Lugo, Kan, 16-8; Rodón, NY, 16-9; Berríos, Tor, 16-10; Burnes, Bal, 15-8; P.López, Min, 15-8; Gil, NY, 14-6; F.Valdez, Houston, 14-7; Bello, Bos, 14-8; Rodriguez, Bal, 13-4. **ERA:** Skubal, Det, 2.48; F.Valdez, Houston, 2.85; R.Blanco, Houston, 2.88; Burnes, Bal, 2.95; Lugo, Kan, 3.05; B.Miller, Sea, 3.06; Houck, Bos, 3.21; Gilbert, Sea, 3.24; Ragans, Kan, 3.24; Wacha, Kan, 3.29. **STRIKEOUTS:** Skubal, Det, 221; Ragans, Kan, 217; Gilbert, Sea, 207; Crochet, Chi, 203; Kikuchi, Houston, 198; Rodón, NY, 190; P.López, Min, 187; Bibee, Cle, 180; Ober, Min, 180; L.Castillo, Sea, 175.

NL Leaders

BATTING: Arraez, SanD, .317; Ozuna, Atl, .310; Ohtani, LA, .297; K.Marte, Ari, .296; Turner, Phi, .296; Merrill, SanD, .294; Betts, LA, .293; Bohm, Phi, .288; Harper, Phi, .285; Willi.Contreras, Mil, .284. **RUNS:** Ohtani, LA, 126; Carroll, Ari, 117; Schwarber, Phi, 106; E.De La Cruz, Cin, 104; Lindor, NY, 103; Willi.Contreras, Mil, 96; M.Chapman, SanF, 95; Ozuna, Atl, 94; Alonso, NY, 90; Profar, SanD, 89. **RBIs:** Ohtani, LA, 122; Adames, Mil, 109; Machado, SanD, 104; Ozuna, Atl, 101; Schwarber, Phi, 99; E.Suárez, Ari, 97; Olson, Atl, 97; Bohm, Phi, 94; K.Marte, Ari, 92; T.Hernández, LA, 92. **HITS:** Arraez, SanD, 195; Ohtani, LA, 180; Ozuna, Atl, 180; B.Reynolds, Pit, 166; Tovar, Col, 166; Willi.Contreras, Mil, 164; Lindor, NY, 163; Machado, SanD, 158; Merrill, SanD, 157; E.De La Cruz, Cin, 156. **DOUBLES:** Bohm, Phi, 44; Tovar, Col, 44; Harper, Phi, 41; Lindor, NY, 39; Willi.Contreras, Mil, 37; Olson, Atl, 37; M.Chapman, SanF, 36; E.De La Cruz, Cin, 35; O.Cruz, Pit, 34; Happ, Chi, 34. **TRIPLES:** Carroll, Ari, 14; E.De La Cruz, Cin, 9; Yastrzemski, SanF, 9; McCarthy, Ari, 7; Ohtani, LA, 7; Abrams, Was, 6; Crow-Armstrong, Chi, 6; Merrill, SanD, 6; Suzuki, Chi, 6; Betts, LA, 5. **HOME RUNS:** Ohtani, LA, 52; Ozuna, Atl, 38; Schwarber, Phi, 36; K.Marte, Ari, 34; Alonso, NY, 34; Adames, Mil, 32; Lindor, NY, 31; T.Hernández, LA, 30; Harper, Phi, 29; Machado, SanD, 29. **STOLEN BASES:** E.De La Cruz, Cin, 65; Ohtani, LA, 53; Turang, Mil, 46; Carroll, Ari, 32; J.Young, Was, 32; Abrams, Was, 31; X.Edwards, Miami, 30; Hoerner, Chi, 30; Doyle, Col, 29; Stott, Phi, 29. **PITCHING:** Sale, Atl, 18-3; Wheeler, Phi, 16-6; Imanaga, Chi, 14-3; Cease, SanD, 14-11; Gallen, Ari, 13-6; S.Gray, St.L, 13-9; Manaea, NY, 12-5; Rea, Mil, 12-5; R.Suárez, Phi, 12-7; Nola, Phi, 12-8. **ERA:** Sale, Atl, 2.38; Wheeler, Phi, 2.56; Imanaga, Chi, 3.03; M.King, SanD, 3.04; C.Sánchez, Phi, 3.25; Manaea, NY, 3.29; Taillon, Chi, 3.41; Cease, SanD, 3.42; Fried, Atl, 3.42; Nola, Phi, 3.54. **STRIKEOUTS:** Sale, Atl, 225; Cease, SanD, 220; Wheeler, Phi, 205; S.Gray, St.L, 203; M.King, SanD, 198; F.Peralta, Mil, 193; Manaea, NY, 183; Nola, Phi, 183; Gore, Was, 172; Pfaadt, Ari, 172.

POP QUIZ

From Dave Oberman of Stonington, Conn.: Name the former World Series MVP who gets mentioned by Champ Kind in the 2004 film "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy."

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: O.J. SIMPSON APPEARED AS A POLICE RECRUIT IN AN EPISODE OF "DRAGNET."

SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO: KENDAVIDOFF4@GMAIL.COM

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	19	4	7	64	68	44
Cincinnati	17	8	5	56	52	39
Columbus	16	5	8	56	58	31
Red Bulls	10	6	14	44	47	39
Orlando City	12	11	7	43	50	45
Charlotte FC	11	11	8	41	36	33
NYCFC	11	11	8	41	43	43
Toronto FC	11	17	3	36	38	55
CF Montréal	8	12	10	34	41	61
Philadelphia	8	12	9	33	53	47
Atlanta	8	13	9	33	40	44
D.C. United	8	12	9	33	44	57
Nashville	8	13	9	33	31	46
Chicago	7	16	8	29	36	54
New England	8	17	4	28	32	60

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
LA Galaxy	17	7	7	58	63	46
Real Salt Lake	14	7	9	51	60	45
Colorado	15	10	5	50	58	50
Los Angeles FC	14	8	7	49	52	40
Houston	13	8	9	48	43	33
Seattle FC	13	9	8	47	45	34
Vancouver	13	9	7	46	49	40
Portland	12	10	8	44	63	53
Minn. United	12	12	6	42	50	48
FC Dallas	10	13	7	37	49	49
Austin FC	9	13	8	35	32	42
Sporting K.C.	8	16	7	31	49	58
St Louis City	6	11	13	31	43	57
San Jose	5	22	3	18	37	69

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday
Miami 1, **NYCFC** 1
Atlanta 2, **Red Bulls** 2
Charlotte FC 4, New England 0
Columbus 4, Orlando City 3
CF Montréal 2, Chicago 0
Houston 1, Austin FC 0
FC Dallas 3, Los Angeles FC 1
Minnesota 2, Sporting K.C. 0
Cincinnati 2, Nashville 2
Colorado 2, Toronto FC 0
Portland 3, Salt Lake 3
LA Galaxy 4, Vancouver 2
St Louis City 2, San Jose 1

Sunday
D.C. United at Philadelphia, 6:15pm

Saturday, September 28
NYCFC at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm
Los Angeles FC at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Columbus at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Charlotte FC at Miami, 7:30pm
San Jose at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Nashville at New England, 7:30pm
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Salt Lake at Austin FC, 8:30pm
Toronto FC at Chicago, 8:30pm
Orlando City at FC Dallas, 8:30pm
Colorado at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Portland at Vancouver, 10:30pm
Houston at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando	15	0	6	51	37	12
Washington	14	5	2	44	42	24
Kansas City	12	3	6	42	46	28
Gotham FC	12	4	4	40	25	16
North Carolina	10	9	2	32	28	23
Chicago	9	10	2	29	27	28
Portland	8	9	3	27	29	28
Louisville	6	8	7	25	30	29
Bay FC	8	12	1	25	25	33
Angel City	6	11	3	21	23	33
Seattle	5	11	5	20	23	35
San Diego	4	10	7	19	17	26
Houston	4	12	5	17	14	32
Utah Royals FC	4	13	3	15	14	33

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday,
Louisville 2, North Carolina 1
Houston 1, Seattle 0
Chicago 1, San Diego 0

Sunday
Utah Royals FC at **Gotham FC**, 1pm

Monday
Portland at Angel City, 10pm

Friday
Washington at Angel City, 10pm

Saturday, September 28
Gotham FC at Kansas City, 1pm
Louisville at Utah Royals FC, 7pm
Houston at Orlando, 7:30pm
Portland at San Diego, 10pm

Sunday, September 29
Bay FC at Seattle, 6pm
North Carolina at Chicago, 6pm

Soccer

English Premier League
Chelsea 3, West Ham United 0
Aston Villa 3, Wolverhampton 1
Fulham 3, Newcastle United 1
Leicester City 1, Everton 1
Liverpool 3, AFC Bournemouth 1
Tottenham 3, Brentford 1
Manchester United 0, Crystal Palace 0

Spanish LaLiga
Real Valladolid 0, Real Sociedad 0
Osasuna 2, Las Palmas 1
Valencia 2, Girona 0
Real Madrid 4, Espanyol 1

German Bundesliga
SC Freiburg 3, 1. FC Heidenheim 1846 0
FC Union Berlin 2, TSG Hoffenheim 1
VfL Bochum 2, Holstein Kiel 2
Bayern Munich 5, Werder Bremen 0
Eintracht Frankfurt 2, Borussia Monchengladbach 0

Italian Serie A
Venezia 2, Genoa 0
Juventus 0, Napoli 0
Lecce 2, Parma 2

French Ligue 1
Lille 3, Strasbourg 3
Stade Rennais 1, Lens 1
Stade de Reims 1, Paris Saint-Germain 1

English League Championship
Norwich City 4, Watford 1
Queens Park Rangers 1, Millwall 1
Sunderland 1, Middlesbrough 0
Bristol City 2, Oxford United 1
Burnley 2, Portsmouth 1
Leeds United 2, Cardiff City 0
Swansea City 2, Coventry City 1
Luton Town 2, Sheffield Wednesday 1
Sheffield United 1, Derby County 0
West Bromich Albion 1, Plymouth Argyle 0

Saudi Pro League
Al Shabab 1, Al Taawoun 0
Al Riyadh 2, Al Raed 1
Al Hilal 3, Al Ittihad 1

R

The POST Line

MLB		
Sunday		
Favorite	**Money Line**	**Underdog**
Yankees	**$152-180**	ATHLETICS
Phillies	**$136-162**	**METS**
Pirates	**$108-126**	REDS
ORIOLES	**$118-138**	Tigers
RED SOX-Gm.1	**-102-116**	Twins
RED SOX-Gm.2	**OFF**	Twins
Braves	**$162-194**	MARLINS
ASTROS	**$235-290**	Angels
BREWERS	**$106-124**	Diamondbacks
Giants	**-104-112**	ROYALS
CARDINALS	**-108-108**	Guardians
CUBS	**$168-200**	Nationals
Mariners	**$110-130**	RANGERS
DODGERS	**$290-360**	Rockies
PADRES	**$260-320**	White Sox
RAYS	**OFF**	Blue Jays
Home teams in CAPS		

NFL		
Sunday- Week 3		
Favorite	**PTS (O/U)**	**Underdog**
BROWNS	**6.5 (38)**	**Giants**
TITANS	**3 (37.5)**	Packers
COLTS	**1 (43.5)**	Bears
Texans	**1.5 (46)**	VIKINGS
SAINTS	**3 (49.5)**	Eagles
STEELERS	**2.5 (35)**	Chargers
BUCCANEERS	**6 (41)**	Broncos
RAIDERS	**6 (40)**	Panthers
SEAHAWKS	**4.5 (42)**	Dolphins
Ravens	**1 (47.5)**	COWBOYS
49ers	**6.5 (43.5)**	RAMS
Lions	**3 (51.5)**	CARDINALS
Chiefs	**3 (46.5)**	FALCONS
Monday		
BILLS	**5 (45.5)**	Jaguars
BENGALS	**7.5 (47)**	Commanders

WNBA		
Sunday- 1st Round		
Favorite	**PTS (O/U)**	**Underdog**
LIBERTY	**12 (156.5)**	Dream
SUN	**5 (163.5)**	Fever

WNBA		
Sunday- 1st Round		
Favorite	**PTS (O/U)**	**Underdog**
LYNX	**9.5 (158)**	Mercury
ACES	**8 (162.5)**	Storm

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER: Red Bulls rally to get draw

Elias Manoel scored in the seventh minute of stoppage time Saturday night and **Dante Vanzeir** added a goal for the Red Bulls in a 2-2 tie with Atlanta United at Red Bull Arena.

Manoel had a penalty kick stopped by goalkeeper **Brad Guzan** in the 88th that would have given New York the lead. **Edwin Mosquera** then responded for Atlanta with a goal to give the visitors a 2-1 lead in the second minute of stoppage time.

New York (10-6-14) is winless in five consecutive games and will host NYCFC in the Hudson River Derby next Saturday.

MLB: Abrams demoted to minors

All-Star shortstop **CJ Abrams** was demoted to the minor leagues by the Nationals on Saturday for what manager **Dave Martinez** said was an internal issue. Abrams isn't expected to play for the big league team again this season.

A report by ESPN said Abrams spent the entire night at a casino near Chicago and left just hours before the Nationals faced the Cubs on Friday at 1 p.m. central time.

● The Guardians clinched the AL Central title earlier Saturday when the Giants handed the Royals their sixth straight loss, 9-0. Cleveland would lose later, 6-5 to the Cardinals in St. Louis.

● In Miami, **Matt Olson** broke a seventh-inning tie with a two-run homer and the Braves beat the Marlins, 6-2, to stay two games behind the Mets for the last National League wild card.

● In Milwaukee, **Joc Pederson**, **Jose Herrera** and **Ketel Marte** homered, and the Diamondbacks beat the Brewers, 5-0, to maintain their hold on the second NL wild card.

● In San Diego, the White Sox tied the American League record with their 119th loss when **Xander Bogaerts** and **Elias Díaz** each hit a two-run homer to help the Padres ,6-2, and move closer to a playoff spot.

● In Baltimore, **Riley Greene** drove in the go-ahead run in the 10th and the Tigers inched closer in the AL wild card chase by beating the Orioles, 6-4. Detroit moved within a half-game of the Twins for the final American League playoff spot.

NFL: 49ers' Kittle out against Rams

All-Pro tight end **George Kittle** will miss the 49ers game on Sunday against the Rams with a hamstring injury. Kittle was initially listed as doubtful for the game but was downgraded to out on Saturday before the team left for Los Angeles.

ETC.: Dubois knocks out Joshua

Daniel Dubois retained the IBF heavyweight title by knocking out former two-time world champion **Anthony Joshua** in the fifth round in a dominant first defense of his belt in front of 96,000 fans at Wembley Stadium in London.

● **Danny Lee** took control of a back-and-forth match against U.S. Open champion **Bryson DeChambeau** by holing a hard-breaking birdie putt on the 16th hole to lead his Iron Heads past DeChambeau's defending champion Crushers in the LIV Golf Team Championship in Carrollton, Texas.

TOP PLAY

Fly to Falcons in first half

By MICHAEL ARINZE

One team in the NFL that's still likely to divide opinions is the Falcons.

Atlanta picked up its first victory of the season with a game-winning touchdown drive inside the final two minutes of the fourth quarter against the Eagles on Monday night.

Thus, it will have some momentum heading into its Sunday night game against Kansas City. The Chiefs (-3.5) will have to overcome the loss of starting running back Isiah Pacheco to a fibula injury.

Though both teams were somewhat fortunate in their victories in Week 2, the Chiefs have the experience of knowing how to win close games. How often do we watch a game only to see the opponent and not Kansas City make the critical mistake in the waning minutes?

As a result, if you're looking to fade the Chiefs, you might not get a better opportunity than in the first half. According to the Action Network, Kansas City is on an 0-7 run on the first-half spread as a favorite of 2.5 or more points.

With that trend active for Sunday night, the Falcons are worth a look.

THE PLAY: Falcons first half +2.5 (-110 at BetMGM).

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2024 W-L	2024 ERA	*REC	'24 vs OPP W-L	'24 vs OPP ERA	CAREER vs OPP	LAST 3 STARTS W-L	LAST 3 STARTS IP	LAST 3 STARTS ERA
Yankees	Gil (R)		14-6	3.14	18-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	16.0	1.12
Athletics	Estes (R)	(4:07pm)	7-8	4.78	10-12	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	11.2	9.26
Phillies	Wheeler (R)		16-6	2.56	19-11	1-0	5.84	5-4	3-0	19.0	1.89
Mets	Megill (R)	(7:15pm)	4-5	4.08	6-7	1-0	2.70	3-1	1-0	16.0	1.69
Giants	Snell (L)		4-3	3.31	13-6	0-0	0.00	1-3	2-0	12.0	1.50
Royals	Lugo (R)	(2:10pm)	16-8	3.05	17-14	2-0	0.46	4-2	2-0	18.2	2.41
Guardians	Williams (R)		3-10	5.12	4-11	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-3	11.0	8.18
Cardinals	Pallante (R)	(2:15pm)	7-8	3.87	9-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	17.0	4.24
White Sox	Burke (R)		1-0	2.25	—	—	—	—	1-0	5.0	3.60
Padres	Darvish (R)	(4:10pm)	6-3	3.21	10-4	0-0	0.00	3-2	2-0	13.2	3.29
Twins	Lopez (R)	Game 1	15-8	3.84	18-12	1-0	1.25	1-1	2-0	20.0	2.25
Red Sox	Pivetta (R)	(12:35pm)	5-11	4.37	13-11	0-0	0.00	1-1	0-1	16.2	3.24
Tigers	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orioles	Suarez (R)	(1:35pm)	8-6	3.60	12-10	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	13.2	7.24
Blue Jays	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rays	Baz (R)	(1:40pm)	3-3	3.21	6-6	0-0	0.00	2-0	1-1	18.1	2.45
Angels	Canning (R)		6-13	5.16	12-17	0-1	3.97	0-3	2-1	18.1	4.91
Astros	Arrighetti (R)	(2:10pm)	7-13	4.68	10-17	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	12.1	5.11
Mariners	Woo (R)		8-3	2.86	13-7	0-0	0.00	0-2	2-1	16.1	6.06
Rangers	Heaney (L)	(2:35pm)	5-14	3.89	11-18	0-3	5.74	4-10	1-1	16.0	3.38
Twins	Matthews (R)	Game 2	1-3	6.30	3-4	—	—	—	0-1	13.0	4.85
Red Sox	Crawford (R)	(5:35pm)	8-15	4.19	9-22	—	—	1-1	0-3	16.2	4.86
Pirates	Skenes (R)		10-3	2.07	13-8	2-0	0.75	2-0	2-1	17.0	1.06
Reds	Greene (R)	(1:10pm)	9-4	2.83	10-14	0-1	5.23	0-3	2-0	19.0	1.89
Braves	Holmes (R)		2-1	3.84	1-4	0-0	5.79	0-0	1-0	16.0	5.06
Marlins	McCaughan (R)	(1:40pm)	0-0	7.64	4-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	13.1	6.75
D'Backs	Montgomery (L)		8-7	6.23	12-8	0-0	0.00	2-2	1-1	16.1	6.61
Brewers	Montas (R)	(2:10pm)	7-11	4.50	12-16	0-1	1.50	1-2	1-2	17.2	3.06
Nationals	Irvin (R)		10-12	4.06	13-18	0-1	13.50	0-1	1-1	18.1	3.93
Cubs	Imanaga (L)	(2:20pm)	14-3	3.03	22-6	1-0	4.50	1-0	3-0	20.0	2.25
Rockies	Senzatela (R)		0-0	6.00	1-0	0-0	0.00	4-5	0-1	10.2	5.06
Dodgers	Yamamoto (R)	(4:10pm)	6-2	2.63	9-7	1-0	1.50	1-0	0-0	10.0	0.00

* **REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Shota me the money!

Don't change dugouts in the middle of a series.

The Nationals beat the Cubs (read below) on Saturday, but we are heading over to the home team dugout for the Sunday affair.

Shota Imanaga won for us last week. Imanaga has now stretched his winning streak to five, allowing 11 runs over his past 38 innings.

Washington's Jake Irvin enters off back-to-back quality starts but lost to Pittsburgh previously, and the Cubs jumped Jake for seven runs in just four frames back on Aug. 30. Play $50 on the Cubbies.

-$

Joey Gallooooooo! Take it easy Oprah. Gallo launched a three-run homer, MacKenzie Gore tossed a one-hitter over seven strong innings, and the Nationals drubbed the Chicago Schlubs, 5-1. Nats the ticket. Winner. Down -478 zimmermans.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups HOME AWAY

	TODAY September 22	MON Sept. 23	TUE Sept. 24	WED Sept. 25	THU Sept. 26	FRI Sept. 27	SAT Sept. 28
Yankees	Oakland 4:07 YES WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	NO GAME	Balt. 7:05 YES WFAN	Balt. 7:05 YES WFAN	Balt. 7:05 YES WFAN	Pitts. 7:05 YES WFAN	Pitts. 1:05 YES WFAN
Mets	Philadelphia 7:15 ESPN WHSQ 880 AM	NO GAME	Atl. 7:20 SNY WHSQ	Atl. 7:20 SNY WHSQ	Atl. 7:20 SNY WHSQ	Milw. 8:10 SNY WHSQ	Milw. 7:10 PIX11 WHSQ
New York Rangers	(Exhibition) Boston 5:00 MSG	NO GAME	(Exh.) NYI 7:00 MSG	NO GAME	(Exh.) Bost. 7:00 MSG	NO GAME	NO GAME
NY Islanders	(Exhibition) Devils 7:00 MSGSN 2	NO GAME	(Exh.) NYR 7:00 MSGSN	NO GAME	(Exh.) Phila. 7:00	(Exh.) NJD 7:00 MSGSN	NO GAME
Devils	(Exhibition) Islanders 7:00 MSGSN	NO GAME	(Exh.) Mtl. 7:00	(Exh.) Wash. 7:00	NO GAME	(Exh.) NYI 7:00 MSG	NO GAME
Liberty	1st Round Atlanta 1:00 ESPN	NO GAME	1st Rd. Atl. 7:30 ESPN	NO GAME	1st Rd. Atl. TBD ESPN2	NO GAME	TBD

Saturday	Saturday	Sunday
NYCFC 7:30 Apple TV+	Red Bulls 7:30 Apple TV+	Utah Royals 1:00 ESPN2

Sunday	Sunday, Sept. 29
Cleveland 1:00 TV - Fox Radio- WFAN 101.9 FM	 Denver 1:00 TV - CBS Radio- WAXQ 104.3 FM

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB	1:30 p.m.	Twins at Red Sox	MLBN
	4:07 p.m.	Yankees at Athletics	YES, WFAN (660 AM)
	4:30 p.m.	Rockies at Dodgers (in progress)	MLBN
	7:15 p.m.	Phillies at Mets	ESPN, WHSQ (880 AM)
NFL	1 p.m.	Giants at Browns	Fox, WFAN (101.9 FM)
	1 p.m.	Chargers at Steelers	CBS
	4:25 p.m.	Ravens at Cowboys	Fox
	8:20 p.m.	Chiefs at Falcons	NBC, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
NHL Exhibition	5 p.m.	Rangers at Bruins	MSG
	7 p.m.	Islanders at Devils	MSGSN, MSGSN2
WNBA Playoffs	1 p.m.	Dream at Liberty, Game 1	ESPN
	3 p.m.	Fever at Sun, Game 1	ABC
	5 p.m.	Mercury at Lynx, Game 1	ESPN
	10 p.m.	Storm at Aces, Game 1	ESPN
Soccer	9 a.m.	EPL: Nottingham Forest at Brighton & Hove Albion	USA
	11:30 a.m.	EPL: Arsenal at Manchester City	USA
	Noon	Women: Northwestern at Ohio State	BTN
	Noon	Women: California at Wake Forest	ACCN
	1 p.m.	NWSL: Utah Royals at Gotham FC	ESPN2
	2 p.m.	Women: Michigan State at Penn State	BTN
	2 p.m.	Women: Florida State at SMU	ACCN
	3 p.m.	USL Championship: Louisville City at Detroit City	ESPN2
	4:55 p.m.	FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Final: Japan vs. North Korea	FS2
	6 p.m.	D.C. United at Philadelphia Union	FS1
	9 p.m.	Liga MX: Tigres UANL at Juarez	FS1
Golf	7 a.m.	DP: BMW PGA Championship, Final Round	Golf
	1 p.m.	LPGA: Kroger Queen City Championship, Final Round	Golf
	6 p.m.	Champions: Pure Insurance Championship, Final Round	Golf
Auto Racing	7:55 a.m.	F1: Singapore Grand Prix	ESPN
	3 p.m.	NHRA: Carolina Nationals	FS1
	3 p.m.	IMSA Weathertech SportsCar Championship: Battle on the Bricks	NBC
Tennis	12:30 p.m.	Laver Cup: Day 3, Night Session	Tennis
College Volleyball	12:30 p.m.	Women: Nebraska at Louisville	ABC
	5 p.m.	Women: Oklahoma at Kansas State	ESPNU
Horse Racing	1 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2

ODDS & ENDS

NFL
Sunday
Giants at Browns odds and props

FULL-GAME MONEYLINE	ODDS
Giants	+240
Browns	-300
FIRST-HALF SPREAD	**ODDS**
Giants +3.5	-105
Browns -3.5	-115
FIRST-HALF TOTAL	**ODDS**
Over 20	-110
Under 20	-110
FIRST-HALF MONEYLINE	**ODDS**
Giants	+200
Browns	-250
WINNING MARGIN (4-way, including OT)	**ODDS**
Browns by 1-6	+290
Browns by 7-12	+350
Browns by 13-18	+425
Giants by 1-6	+450
PASSING YARDS	**O/U**
Deshaun Watson	202.5
Daniel Jones	183.5
RUSHING YARDS	**O/U**
Devin Singletary	55.5
Jerome Ford	47.5
D'Onta Foreman	42.5
Daniel Jones	29.5
Deshaun Watson	22.5
RECEIVING YARDS	**O/U**
Malik Nabers	62.5
Amari Cooper	47.5
Jerry Jeudy	40.5
Elijah Moore	30.5
Wan'Dale Robinson	29.5
Darius Slayton	27.5
Jordan Akins	22.5
Jerome Ford	18.5
Devin Singletary	14.5
Theo Johnson	13.5
KICKING POINTS	**O/U**
Dustin Hopkins	6.5
Greg Joseph	5.5
FIRST TOUCHDOWN	**ODDS**
Jerome Ford	+550
D'Onta Foreman	+750
Devin Singletary	+800
Amari Cooper	+800
Malik Nabers	11/1
Jerry Jeudy	11/1
Deshaun Watson	12/1
Jordan Akins	12/1
Daniel Jones	15/1
Elijah Moore	15/1
ANYTIME TOUCHDOWN	**ODDS**
Jerome Ford	+130
D'Onta Foreman	+150
Devin Singletary	+155
Amari Cooper	+175
Malik Nabers	+200
Jerry Jeudy	+250
Deshaun Watson	+275
Daniel Jones	+300
Jordan Akins	+320
Elijah Moore	+350

BET SMART



Brown vs. Blue has Under tones

MISSING THE POINTS: Sunday's matchup between Deshaun Watson's Browns and the Giants led by Daniel Jones (right) figures to be stingy with the points, making Under 38.5 a good bet, writes Andrew Norton. AP; Bill Kostroun

By ANDREW NORTON

After a double-digit loss at home to the Cowboys, Cleveland bounced back with a narrow road win against the Trevor Lawrence-led Jaguars.

Now, the injury-riddled Browns host the Giants, who fell shy of squeaking out a win last week on the road against Washington.

Will Cleveland continue to buy itself time as it anxiously waits for the return of star running back Nick Chubb, or will the Giants unexpectedly string together a strong enough performance to beat the Browns on the road?

Last week's game between the Giants and Commanders was weird. Washington scored 21 points, all of which came from seven field goals. Conversely, New York scored 18 points, courtesy of three touchdowns, but because Graham Gano was injured, the Giants were forced to get creative.

First, they deployed the punter, Jamie Gillan, to attempt an extra point. He missed it. Then, the Giants tried the 2-point conversion on the next two touchdowns, but failed both times.

On the one hand, it was promising to see the Giants gain some offensive momentum with Daniel Jones under center while also making numerous consecutive stops defensively in the red zone.

Still, they allowed a nonsensical 425 total yards of offense to the Commanders, a team with a rookie quarterback and limited receiving weapons.

Meanwhile, Cleveland made up for a home loss to Dallas in Week 1 with a road win last week against a Jacksonville team with some talent on both sides of the ball. Deshaun Watson didn't do anything spectacular in Week 2, but he looked serviceable, completing roughly 65 percent of his passes for 186 passing yards. It was a step forward for the Browns' offensive unit.

Unfortunately, they were still 2-for-14 on third-down attempts. Yikes.

It is difficult to imagine a path for a struggling Jones and a horrible offensive line, save Andrew Thomas's excellent play at left tackle, to score against the Browns.

Cleveland's defense has underperformed relative to expectations so far this season, however, most of the team's issues have come from the offense's turnovers and poor starting field position.

Regardless, there is no better time to get going than against a Giants offense that finished 30th in offensive DVOA (FTN) and team run-block grade, as well as dead last in team pass-block grade, per Pro Football Focus, in 2023.

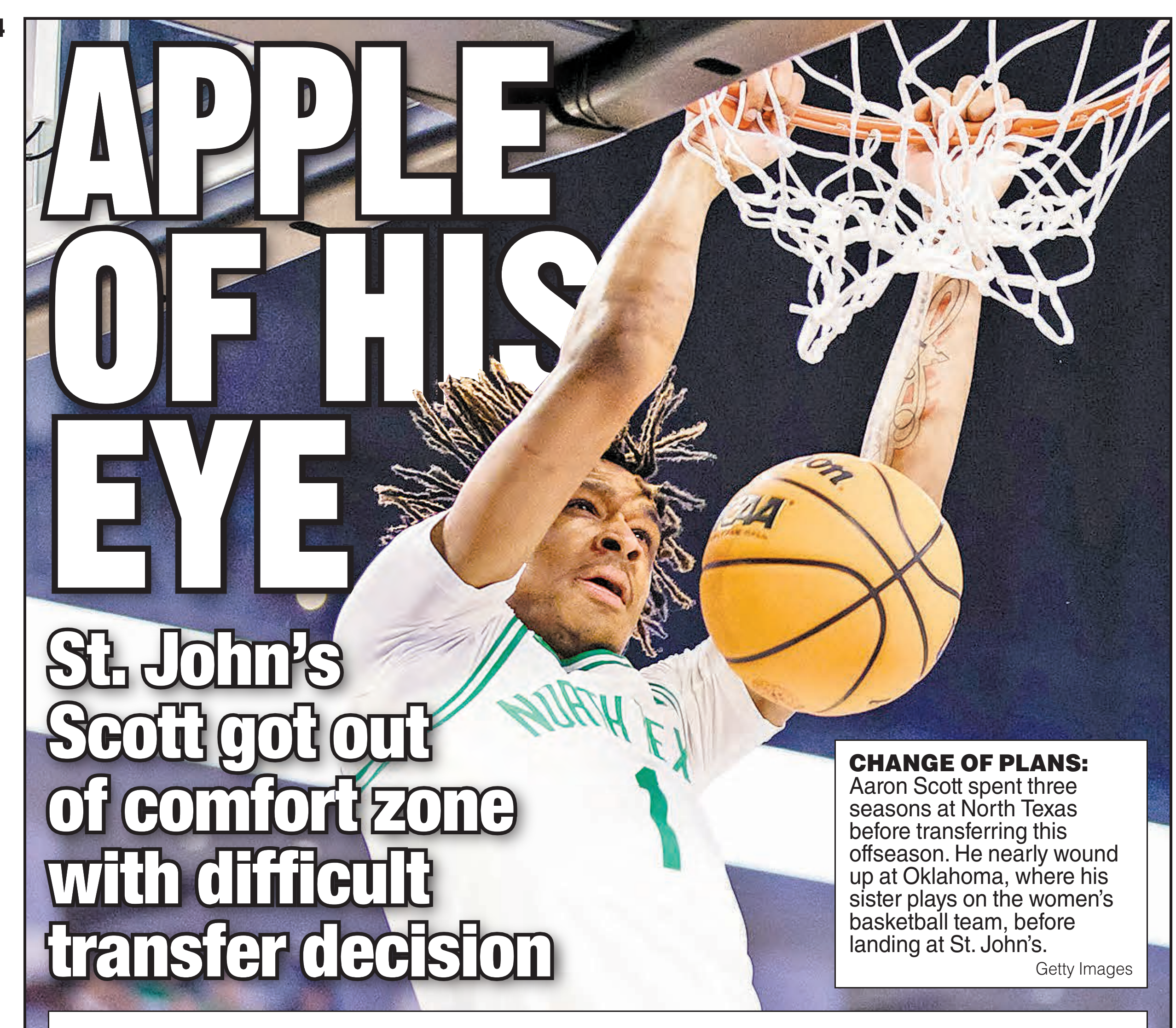
With the Browns' consistent third-down struggles through the first two weeks (31st in third-down conversion percentage), it is nearly as challenging to see them having tons of success against a Giants team that, if nothing else, has fared well defensively in the red zone (fourth in opponent red zone scoring percentage).

This will be a nasty game, and neither team will have much offensive success. Therefore, the Under has some value at 38.5 despite a low total.

Recommendation: Under 38.5 (-108, DraftKings).

APPLE OF HIS EYE

St. John's Scott got out of comfort zone with difficult transfer decision



CHANGE OF PLANS: Aaron Scott spent three seasons at North Texas before transferring this offseason. He nearly wound up at Oklahoma, where his sister plays on the women's basketball team, before landing at St. John's. Getty Images

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Aaron Scott loved everything about the visit.

The campus was a few hundred miles from his home in Spring, Texas. His sister, Liz, was on the women's basketball team.

Oklahoma — not St. John's — just felt right. He committed before leaving Norman that weekend in April.

"I slept on it and I woke up with a weird feeling in my gut," the 6-foot-7 North Texas transfer forward recalled in an interview with The Post on Saturday. "I felt like I needed to be at St. John's. Even though it's far away from home, far away from Texas, I just felt like I needed to be here, needed to get out of my comfort zone. So far, it's one of the best decisions I've made."

He added: "I just felt like going to New York City, going to play for a Hall of Fame coach, is an opportunity you can't pass up."

St. John's is thrilled he changed his mind. Through summer and the early part of fall workouts, he has wowed the staff with his two-way ability. They see untapped potential in him on the offensive end, and a defensive stalwart on the other. Coach Rick Pitino has said that Scott had the best summer of anyone on the roster, and envisions him being a critical piece to the Johnnies as a four-man who can defend multiple positions and stretch the defense with his 3-point shot.

But Scott won't let that praise go to his head. Official practices haven't even started — that begins on Tuesday.

"That's just one phase, we still have a season to go," he said. "I'm going to stay consistent, keep being me, keep getting better, keep learning all these new [plays]."

Scott has had to make some adjustments, which was part of why he opted for St. John's instead of Oklahoma. To take the next step in his career he felt it was important to test himself with a new situation. He's living in New York City — his first trip here came last year when North Texas played Fordham — and has visited Times Square and attended a Mets game. The city is the polar opposite to his hometown. Asked to describe the difference, he used one word: "Crazy."

St. John's style is very different, too. Scott, who averaged 11 points, 5.6 rebounds and 1.3 blocks while shooting an even 37 percent from distance for North Texas last season, is getting used to playing in an up-tempo system after spending the last three seasons with the plodding Mean Green, who were ranked 360th in adjusted tempo. Early on, coaches got on him for passing up shots.

"I've gotten so much better since I've been here. I've learned so much basketball knowledge, different ways to guard ball screens, different ways to help on defense," Scott said during St. John's 14th annual Dribble for Victory Over Cancer fundraising event on campus. "It's been a lot of knowledge, a lot of learning here, and I feel like that can help me as I continue playing basketball."

The decision to pass on Oklahoma for St. John's wasn't easy, Scott recalled. His sister was initially mad at him. He had to explain the change to his parents. But thinking back on it now, Scott is certain he made the right choice. He's experienced new things in a new city, getting pushed by Pitino's notoriously demanding skill development sessions. He's on a loaded roster that includes dynamic lead guard transfers Kadary Richmond (Seton Hall) and Deivon Smith (Utah), is being coached by one of the all-time greats and has a very good chance to reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time.

"We got a whole bunch of winners on the team," he said. "A lot of guys who want to win. I haven't been to the tournament yet. That's our main goal, just touch the tournament. If we touch the tournament, who knows what can happen in the tournament. I think it's going to be a good year."

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TE Bellinger disappearing on offense

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

CLEVELAND — Even with the Giants selecting Theo Johnson in the fourth round of the 2024 draft, and even with the signing of veteran Chris Manhertz, it figured that Daniel Bellinger would maintain a role as a tight end within the offense.

Why not? Bellinger in his 29 games the past two seasons compiled 55 receptions and developed into an improving in-line blocker. Johnson is a promising pass-catcher prospect, but he is a rookie, and Manhertz operates more like an offensive lineman than a tight end. There was every reason to believe Bellinger would be a part of the game plan this season.

In the season-opening loss to the Vikings, Bellinger played 16 of the 71 snaps on offense. In last week's 21-18 loss to the Commanders, Bellinger was on the field for just four of the 56 snaps on offense.

"That's not up to me," Bellinger told The Post. "I'm just going to do the best job I can and do whatever they ask me to do and whatever they need me to do to help the team win, whatever that is. It is what it is. It's not much in my control, just do what I can and control what I can control."

A 2022 fourth-round pick of the Joe Schoen regime, Bellinger, 23, said he did not get any heads-up that he would be used sparingly in Week 2.

"My focus is just on what I can do to help us win, and I wasn't thinking too much about it," he said.

Coach Brian Daboll explained the tight end usage last week as a byproduct of a specific plan of attack that called for blocking, first and foremost. Johnson played 44 snaps and did not have a single target. Manhertz in 26 snaps was also not targeted.

For Sunday's game against the Browns, Bellinger does not know how much time he will get on the field.

"I'm not sure if I will get more or less," Bellinger said. "Either way, just got to be ready. I think there will be opportunities. I think I can help the offense any way they need me to."

GIANTS NOTES

➤ **Jamie Gillan** is a punter by trade. He grew up in Scotland playing soccer and rugby, and was a punter and place kicker at Arkansas-Pine Bluff. In an emergency situation last season, he hit a 40-yard field goal. When **Graham Gano** went down early last week, Gillan was called on again, and he missed his first, and only, extra-point attempt. Daboll clearly did not trust him after that.

"I should've made that first one, for sure," Gillan told The Post. "That's a kick I need to make. Even though it's not a part of my job, because I'm a punter, it is a part of my job because I'm part of the team. It's up to me to step up and do that."

➤ There could be a vulnerability for the Giants to exploit. The Browns' offensive line in the first two weeks allowed pressure on 40.4 percent of dropbacks, according to Next Gen Stats. That is the fifth-highest pressure rate allowed in the league. Right tackle **Jack Conklin** is likely to make his 2024 debut in this game. ... **Shane Bowen** is not known as a high-blitz defensive coordinator. In the first two games, sending pressure has not gone well for the Giants. When blitzing, they have allowed opposing quarterbacks to complete all 11 passes for an NFL-high 221 yards. There are no other teams not to have forced an incompletion when blitzing this season.

➤ CB Nick McCloud (knee) did not travel with the team and will miss his second consecutive game.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	65	38
Jets	2	1	0	.667	67	52
Miami	1	1	0	.500	30	48
New England	1	2	0	.333	39	57
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Houston	2	0	0	1.000	48	40
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	37	45
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	30	38
Tennessee	0	2	0	.000	34	48
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	1.000	31	16
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	35	46
Baltimore	0	2	0	.000	43	53
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	35	42
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	53	45
L.A. Chargers	2	0	0	1.000	48	13
Las Vegas	1	1	0	.500	36	45
Denver	0	2	0	.000	26	39

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	52	61
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	55	51
Washington	1	1	0	.500	41	55
Giants	0	2	0	.000	24	49
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
New Orleans	2	0	0	1.000	91	29
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	57	36
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	32	39
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	13	73
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	51	23
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	37	36
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	42	40
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	45	44
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Seattle	2	0	0	1.000	49	40
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	69	44
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	49	42
L.A. Rams	0	2	0	.000	30	67

Week 3- Thursday

Jets 24, New England 3

Sunday

Giants at Cleveland, 1pm
Chicago at Indianapolis, 1pm
Denver at Tampa Bay, 1pm
Green Bay at Tennessee, 1pm
Houston at Minnesota, 1pm
L.A. Chargers at Pittsburgh, 1pm
Philadelphia at New Orleans, 1pm
Carolina at Las Vegas, 4:05pm
Miami at Seattle, 4:05pm
Baltimore at Dallas, 4:25pm
Detroit at Arizona, 4:25pm
San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 4:25pm
Kansas City at Atlanta, 8:20pm

Monday

Jacksonville at Buffalo, 7:30pm
Washington at Cincinnati, 8:15pm

Week 4- Thursday, Sept. 26

Dallas at **Giants**, 8:15pm

Sunday, Sept. 29

Denver at **Jets**, 1pm
Cincinnati at Carolina, 1pm
Jacksonville at Houston, 1pm
L.A. Rams at Chicago, 1pm
Minnesota at Green Bay, 1pm
New Orleans at Atlanta, 1pm
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 1pm
Pittsburgh at Indianapolis, 1pm
New England at San Francisco, 4:05pm
Washington at Arizona, 4:05pm
Cleveland at Las Vegas, 4:25pm
Kansas City at L.A. Chargers, 4:25pm
Buffalo at Baltimore, 8:20pm

Monday, Sept. 30

Tennessee at Miami, 7:30pm
Seattle at Detroit, 8:15pm

NFL Injury Report

SUNDAY
GIANTS AT BROWNS

NEW YORK
Out: DB Nick McCloud (knee). **Questionable:** LB Darius Muasau (knee), LB Brian Burns (groin). **Limited:** LB Kayvion Thibodeaux (shoulder), DL Rakeem Nunez-Roches (abdomen). **Full:** S/LB Isaiah Simmons (NIR-personal), OL Jermaine Eluemunor (neck).
CLEVEAND
Out: TE David Njoku (ankle), RB Pierre Strong Jr. (hamstring). **Questionable:** OT Jedrick Willis Jr. (knee), OT Jack Conklin (knee). **Limited:** DE Myles Garrett (foot), LS Charley Hughlett (foot), OL Dawand Jones (knee), DL Za'Darius Smith (back), DB Denzel Ward (shoulder), DE Alex Wright (triceps/elbow). **Full:** CB Martin Emerson (ankle/shoulder), WR Jerry Jeudy (knee), LB Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah (hand), WR Jamari Thrash (illness).

RAVENS AT COWBOYS

BALTIMORE
Out: OT Malaesala Aumavae-Laulu (NIR-personal). **Questionable:** WR Deonte Harty (calf), LB David Ojabo (quadricep), DB Nate Wiggins (neck/concussion). **Full:** DB Kyle Hamilton (back), CB Jalyn Armour-Davis (NIR-personal), LB Adisa Isaac (hamstring), OL Ronnie Stanley (ankle), LB Kyle Van Noy (eye/groin).
DALLAS
Questionable: DT Mazi Smith (back), WR Jalen Brooks (ankle), TE John Stephens Jr. (hamstring). **Full:** CB Trevon Diggs (foot), TE Jake Ferguson (knee), S Malik Hooker (shoulder), WR CeeDee Lamb (ankle), , MLB Eric Kendricks (NIR-rest), DE Marshawn Kneeland (calf), G Zack Martin (NIR-rest/knee).

PANTHERS AT RAIDERS

CAROLINA
Out: DT Shy Tuttle (foot). **Questionable:** DT A'Shawn Robinson (knee), CB Lonnie Johnson (thigh), S Nick Scott (neck). **Limited:** TE Tommy Tremble (hamstring/back). **Full:** OLB Jadeveon Clowney (NIR-rest), TE Feleipe Franks (NIR-personal), OT Robert Hunt (shoulder), G Damien Lewis (groin), OT Taylor Moton (NIR-rest).
LAS VEGAS
Out: LB Divine Deablo (oblique/concussion). **Doubtful:** CB Decamerion Richardson (hamstring). **Questionable:** DE Maxx Crosby (ankle), DE Tyree Wilson, DT Christian Wilkins (knee). **Full:** T Kolton Miller (shoulder), G Dylan Perham (foot), LB Tommy Eichenberg (knee), S Chris Smith II (knee), DE Janarius Robinson (hand).

BEARS AT COLTS

CHICAGO
Out: WR Keenan Allen (heel/personal), FB Khari Blasingame (hand/knee), DL Zacch Pickens (groin), RB Travis Homer (finger). **Questionable:** OL Nate Davis (groin). **Full:** OL Teven Jenkins (thigh), TE Marcedes Lewis (NIR-rest), OL Kiran Amegadjie (quad), DL Andrew Billings (groin), WR Rome Odunze (knee), DL Montez Sweat (elbow), DL DeMarcus Walker (foot).
INDIANAPOLIS
Questionable: DL Laitu Latu (hip), WR Michael Pittman Jr. (back/calf). **DNP:** OL Ryan Kelly (NIR), OL Braden Smith (knee). **Full:** S Julian Blackmon (shoulder), WR Josh Downs (ankle), K Matt Gay (right quadricep), CB Kenny Moore (thumb), S Rodney Thomas (shoulder).

BRONCOS AT BUCCANEERS

DENVER
Out: LB Baron Browning (foot), S J.L. Skinner (ankle). **Full:** DE John Franklin-Myers (concussion), S Brandon Jones (foot), DE Zach Allen (shoulder), TE Greg Dulcich (knee, ankle), WR Josh Reynolds (achilles), TE Adam Trautman (shoulder), WR Devaughn Vele (ribs).
TAMPA BAY
Out: T Luke Goedeke (concussion), DT Calijah Kancey (calf), S Antoine Winfeld (foot), WR Kameron Johnson (ankle), DT Vita Vea (knee). **Questionable:** DE William Gholston (knee), CB Josh Hayes (ankle).

LIONS AT CARDINALS

DETROIT
Out: S Ifeatu Melifonwu (ankle), CB Ennis Rakestraw Jr. (hamstring). **Questionable:** DB Terrion Arnold (illness), LB Alex Anzalone (concussion), OL Graham Glasgow (knee), WR Isaiah Williams (abdomen).
ARIZONA
Questionable: T Kelvin Beachum (hamstring), WR Greg Dortch (hamstring), DT Dante Stills (shoulder). **Full:** LB Xavier Thomas (NIR-personal), OL Will Hernandez (ankle), WR Xavier Weaver (oblique).

PACKERS AT TITANS

GREEN BAY
Out: OT Jordan Morgan (shoulder). **Doubtful:** DB Carrington Valentine (ankle). **Questionable:** QB Jordan Love (knee). **Limited:** NT Kenny Clark (toe), RB Josh Jacobs (back), G Elgton Jenkins (illness/glute), TE Tucker Kraft (shoulder), C Josh Myers (ankle), WR Jayden Reed (calf), OT Zach Tom (quadricep), OT Rasheed Walker (shoulder). **Full:** DE Kingsley Enagbare (groin).
TENNESSEE
Questionable: RB Tyjae Spears (ankle). **Full:** DL Jeffery Simmons (NIR-rest), DB L'Jarius Sneed (NIR-rest), LS Morgan Cox (ankle).

TEXANS AT VIKINGS

HOUSTON
Out: RB Dameon Pierce (hamstring), C/G Jarrett Patterson (calf), RB Joe Mixon (ankle). **Questionable:** C/G Juice Scruggs (groin), S M.J. Stewart (knee). **Full:** LB Azeez Al-Shaair (shin), CB Kris Boyd (hip), WR Nico Collins (hip/foot), DT Folorunso Fatukasi (shoulder), CB Kamari Lassiter (elbow), TE Dalton Schultz (ankle).
MINNESOTA
Out: WR Jordan Addison (ankle), OLB Dallas Turner (knee), LB Ivan Pace Jr. (quad). **Full:** WR Justin Jefferson (quad), . **Full:** C Garrett Bradbury (knee), G Ed Ingram (triceps), RB Aaron Jones (hip), WR Jalen Nailor (ankle). OT Brian O'Neill (elbow), OLB Andrew Van Ginkel (foot).

CHIEFS AT FALCONS

KANSAS CITY
Full: DE Mike Danna (quadricep), S Nazeeh Johnson (hamstring), NT Derrick Nnadi (triceps), DT Mike Pennel (groin), WR Xavier Worthy (quadricep).
ATLANTA
DNP: DT Grady Jarrett (NIR-rest), DT David Onyemata (NIR-rest). **Limited:** OT Jake Matthews (NIR-rest). **Full:** RB Tyler Allgeier (hip), DE James Smith-Williams (hip), CB Antonio Hamilton (groin).

CHARGERS AT STEELERS

L.A. CHARGERS
Out: LB Junior Colson (hamstring). **Questionable:** OLB Bud DuPree (illness), WR Joshua Palmer (elbow/calf), DB Alohi Gilman (knee), QB Justin Herbert (ankle), DB Ja*Sir Taylor (fibula). **Full:** LB Joey Bosa (hip), TE Hayden Hurst (ankle), LB Khalil Mack (NIR-rest).
PITTSBURGH
Out: G Isaac Seumalo (pectoral), TE MyCole Pruitt (knee). **Questionable:** QB Russell Wilson (calf), OL Troy Fautanu (knee). **Full:** DT Cameron Heyward (NIR-rest), WR Roman Wilson (ankle), RB Najee Harris (NIR/rest), LB T.J. Watt (NIR/rest), DL Larry Ogunjobi (knee).

DOLPHINS AT SEAHAWKS

MIAMI
Out: WR Grant DuBose (shoulder). **Doubtful:** RB Raheem Mostert (chest), WR Malik Washington (quadricep). **Limited:** T Terron Armstead (shoulder/knee). **Full:** OL Liam Eisenberg (shoulder), OL Robert Jones (shoulder), RB Jeff Wilson, Jr. (oblique), OLB Jaelan Phillips (achilles).
SEATTLE
Out: LB Uchenna Nwosu (knee), T George Fant (knee). **Doubtful:** RB Kenneth Walker III (oblique), LB Jerome Baker (hamstring). **Questionable:** S K'Von Wallace (NIR-personal/shoulder), TE Pharaoh Brown (foot), LB Boye Mafe (knee), WR Laviska Shenault Jr. (foot).

EAGLES AT SAINTS

PHILADELPHIA
Out: WR A.J. Brown (hamstring). **Questionable:** DB C.J. Gardner-Johnson (foot). **Full:** WR Johnny Wilson (hamstring).
NEW ORLEANS
Out: S Will Harris (shin), DT Khalen Saunders (calf). **Doubtful:** TE Taysom Hill (chest). **Questionable:** LB D*Marco Jackson (calf), DB Will Harris (shin), WR A.T. Perry (illness). **Limited:** WR Cedrick Wilson (abdomen). **Full:** T Taliese Fuaga (back), CB Marshon Lattimore (hamstring), S Tyrann Mathieu (heel), LB Jaylan Ford (hamstring), WR Rashid Shaheed (hip).

49ERS AT RAMS

SAN FRANCISCO
Out: WR Deebo Samuel (calf), TE George Kittle (hamstring). **Questionable:** CB Charvarius Ward (hamstring/knee), DE Nick Bosa (rib). **Full:** S Talanoa Hufanga (knee), LB Dee Winters (ankle).
LOS ANGELES
DNP: TE Davis Allen (back), WR Cooper Kupp (ankle). **Questionable:** K Joshua Karty (groin), CB Cobie Durant (toe), DT Bobby Brown III (ankle). **DNP:** DB Tre'Davious White (NIR-rest). **Full:** G Kevin Dotson (foot).

MONDAY
JAGUARS AT BILLS

JACKSONVILLE
Out: TE Evan Engram (hamstring). DNP: DE Arik Armstead (NIR-veteran rest) **Questionable:** RB Tank Bigsby (shoulder), DB Darnell Savage (quadricep), WR Tim Jones (foot). **Full:** OT Cam Robinson (knee).
BUFFALO
Out: LB Terrel Bernard (pectoral), CB Taron Johnson (forearm). **Full:** DE Dawuane Smoot (toe), DE Javon Solomon (oblique), QB Josh Allen (left hand), RB Ty Johnson (knee), TE Quintin Morris (shoulder), DE Casey Toohill (knee), QB Mitchell Trubisky (knee).

COMMANDERS AT BENGALS

WASHINGTON
Out: DE Clelin Ferrell (knee). Questionable: CB Emmanuel Forbes (thumb). **Limited:** DT Jer/Zhan Newton (NIR-rest/foot). **Full:** DE Dorance Armstrong (chest), CB Benjamin St.-Juste (groin), S Quan Martin (hamstring), T Brandon Coleman (ankle),
CINCINNATI
Out: TE Tanner Hudson (knee), ST Sheldon Rankins (hamstring). **Doubtful:** DNP: DT B.J. Hill (hamstring). Questionable: DT Kris Jenkins (thumb). S Vonn Bell (back), **Full:** TE Mike Gesicki (calf), WR Tee Higgins (hamstring),OT Amarius Mims (pectoral), QB Joe Burrow (right wrist).

NHL Preseason

Saturday
Buffalo 7, Pittsburgh 3
Dallas 2, St. Louis 1
Minnesota 5, Winnipeg 2
Sunday
Rangers at Boston, 5pm
Islanders at **Devils**, 7pm
Nashville at Florida, 2pm
Philadelphia at Washington, 3pm
Nashville at Florida, 6pm
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 6pm
Ottawa at Toronto, 7pm
St. Louis vs. Utah at Wells Fargo Arena, 7pm
Vegas at San Jose, 8pm
Calgary at Seattle, 10pm
Monday
Columbus at Buffalo, 7pm
Philadelphia at Montreal, 7pm
Calgary at Edmonton, 9pm
Dallas at Colorado, 9pm
Edmonton at Calgary, 9pm
Los Angeles at Utah, 9pm
Tuesday
Islanders at **Rangers**, 7pm
Devils at Montreal, 7pm
Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7pm
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 7pm
Toronto at Ottawa, 7pm
Washington at Boston, 7pm
Anaheim at San Jose, 10pm
Seattle at Vancouver, 10pm

WNBA Playoffs

1st Round: Best-of-three-playoff series
Atlanta Dream vs. New York Liberty
Sun.: at **Liberty**, 1pm
Tue.: at **Liberty**, 7:30pm
Thu.: at Atlanta, TBD
Indiana Fever vs. Connecticut Sun
Sun.: at Sun, 3pm
Wed.: at Sun, 7:30pm
Fri.: at Fever, TBD
Phoenix Mercury vs. Minnesota Lynx
Sun.: at Minnesota, 5pm
Wed.: at Minnesota, 9:30pm
Fri.: at Phoenix, TBD
Seattle Storm vs. Las Vegas Aces
Sun.: at Las Vegas, 10pm
Tue.: at Las Vegas, 10pm
Thur.: at Seattle, TBD

College Football

East
Army 37, Rice 14
Boston College 23, Michigan St. 19
Brown 26, Georgetown 14
Bucknell 34, Marist 18
Colgate 41, Cornell 24
Columbia 31, Lafayette 20
Dartmouth 45, Fordham 13
Delaware 29, Penn 22
Duquesne 35, WV Wesleyan 0
Harvard 35, Stetson 0
Lehigh 35, Princeton 20
Maine 26, Merrimack 15
Maryland 38, Villanova 20
Morgan St. 56, Va. Lynchburg 7
Navy 56, Memphis 44
New Hampshire 38, Bryant 17
Penn St. 56, Kent St. 0
Pittsburgh 73, Youngstown St. 17
Rhode Island 28, LIU Brooklyn 21
Richmond 38, Delaware St. 24
Robert Morris 21, Wagner 14
Stonehill 35, Sacred Heart 21
Temple 45, Utah St. 29
Uconn 48, FAU 14
Umass 35, CCSU 31
West Virginia 32, Kansas 28
Yale 38, Holy Cross 31
South
Arkansas 24, Auburn 14
Austin Peay 59, Alabama A&M 16
Clark Atlanta 38, Bethune-Cookman 37
Clemson 59, NC State 35
Duke 45, Middle Tennessee 17
E. Kentucky 42, Morehead St. 13
ETSU 34, Elon 14
Florida 45, Mississippi St. 28
Florida St. 14, California 9
Gardner-Webb 42, Presbyterian 21
Grambling St. 41, Jackson St. 20
Hampton 27, Howard 20
Jacksonville St. 44, Southern Miss. 7
James Madison 70, North Carolina 50
Kentucky 41, Ohio 6
LSU 34, UCLA 17
Louisville 31, Georgia Tech 19
McNeese St. 42, Alcorn St. 14
Mercer 38, The Citadel 21
Miami 50, South Florida 15
Mississippi 52, Georgia Southern 13
Missouri St. 31, UT Martin 24
Monmouth (NJ) 45, FIU 42
NC Central 66, NC A&T 24
Nicholls 66, MVSU 0
Norfolk St. 32, VMI 10
Rutgers 26, Virginia Tech 23
S. Dakota St. 41, SE Louisiana 0
South Carolina 50, Akron 7
Stony Brook 24, Campbell 17
Tarleton St. 28, North Alabama 14
Tennessee Tech 24, Tennessee St. 14
Troy 34, Florida A&M 12
Tulane 41, Louisiana-Lafayette 33
Tulsa 23, Louisiana Tech 20, OT
Virginia 43, Coastal Carolina 24
W. Kentucky 26, Toledo 21
Weber St. 39, Northwestern St. 0
William & Mary 34, Furman 24
Midwest
Buffalo 23, N. Illinois 20, OT
Cent. Michigan 37, Ball St. 34
Cincinnati 34, Houston 0
Dayton 49, Ave Maria 7
E. Michigan 36, St. Francis (Pa.) 0
Illinois St. 31, E. Illinois 7
Indiana 52, Charlotte 14
Iowa 31, Minnesota 14
Iowa St. 52, Arkansas St. 7
Lindenwood (Mo.) 64, St. Thomas (Minn.) 0
Michigan 27, Southern Cal 24
Missouri 30, Vanderbilt 27, 2OT
N. Dakota St. 41, Towson 24
North Dakota 41, San Diego 24
Notre Dame 28, Miami (Ohio) 3
Ohio St. 49, Marshall 14
SE Missouri 38, S. Illinois 21
South Dakota 42, Drake 3
Valparaiso 31, Chicago 23, 2OT
Southwest
Cent. Arkansas 56, Ark.-Pine Bluff 17
Idaho 27, Abilene Christian 24
Incarnate Word 38, N. Arizona 14
Lamar 20, Texas Southern 17
North Texas 44, Wyoming 17
SMU 66, TCU 42
Sacramento St. 34, Texas A&M Commerce 0
Sam Houston St. 31, New Mexico St. 11
Southern U. 31, Prairie View 24, OT
Stephen F. Austin 48, N. Colorado 7
Tennessee 25, Oklahoma 15
Texas 51, Louisiana-Monroe 3
Texas A&M 26, Bowling Green 20
Texas Tech 30, Arizona St. 22
UTSA 45, Houston Christian 7
Utah 22, Oklahoma St. 19
Far West
Colorado 38, Baylor 31, OT
Colorado St. 27, UTEP 17
Fresno St. 38, New Mexico 21
Idaho St. 38, S. Utah 28
Montana 46, W. Carolina 35
Montana St. 52, Mercyhurst 13
Nevada 49, E. Washington 16
Oregon St. 38, Purdue 21
Washington 24, Northwestern 5

Every pitch way

Target batters vs. weak arms in final days

Jarad Wilk
Fantasy Insanity

THIS is it! The final week! By this time next week, your league will be crowning its champion. All that sits between you and fantasy glory is seven days when you need to stay on top of your team, and use every possible advantage you can find.

To aid with your final push, Roto Rage is focusing on five pitching staffs worth attacking, so make sure your lineup is stacked against them.

RANGERS

On paper, the Rangers' final two opponents (Athletics and Angels) are not all that intimidating, especially when you consider Texas' potential starters include Jacob deGrom, Max Scherzer, Kumar Rocker, Andrew Heaney, Nathan Eovaldi and Jack Leiter. On paper, that looks pretty solid ... but looks can be deceiving.

DeGrom looked good in his season debut but lasted just 3²/₃ innings, and his workload will be monitored. Scherzer is in the same boat as deGrom.

Heaney has pitched less than six innings in 11 of his past 13 starts while Rocker is striking out 15.4 per nine but has lasted seven innings in his first two starts. Leiter has not worked more than five innings in any of his seven appearances, and Eovaldi has a 5.44 ERA with eight homers allowed over his last eight starts, half of which lasted less than six innings.

Why is this important? The Rangers' bullpen entered Friday with the sixth-worst ERA, the fifth-most homers allowed and issued the second-most walks in the majors.

Oakland's Zack Gelof (12.4 percent) has four stolen bases and hit .308 with a .809 OPS in his first 17 games this month. Lawrence Butler (42.2 percent) hit .317 with 20 homers, 49 RBIs, 49 runs, 11 stolen bases and a 1.006 OPS in 65 games before Friday. Brent Rooker (90.5 percent) should obviously remain in your lineup as he hit .367 with nine homers, 27 RBIs, 19 runs, four stolen bases and 1.078 OPS in his past 27 games.

For the Angels, Taylor Ward (50.9 percent) entered Friday with at least one hit in 24 of his past 28 games, hitting .305 with nine homers, 15 RBIs, 21 runs, two stolen bases and a 1.021 OPS in that span.

MARLINS

Since the break, the Marlins have the worst ERA allowed, and have allowed the third-most homers and most earned runs. Their final six games will come against the Blue Jays (hello, Vlad Guerrero Jr.) and Twins, who are trying to hold onto the final AL wild-card spot.

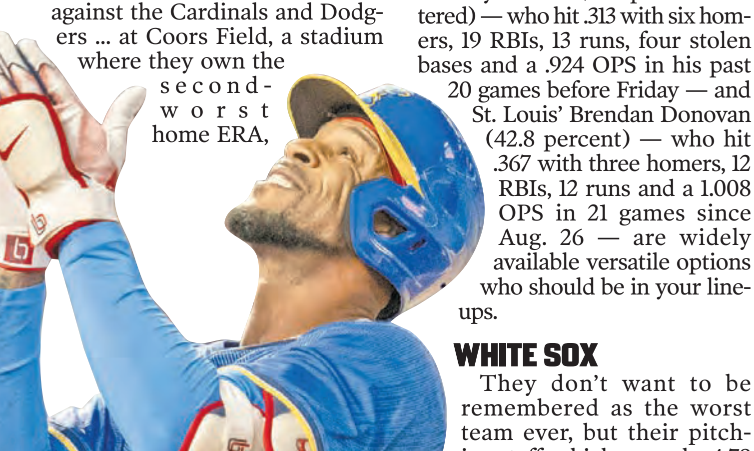
Minnesota's oft-injured Byron Buxton (20.8 percent rostered), who had at least one hit in four of his first five games off the injured list, should be on your radar for that series.

September has always been his best month (.272, 32 HR, 71 RBIs, 88 runs, 12 SB, .902 OPS). Two other hot-swinging Twins to play: Carlos Correa, who hit .385 with four RBIs and a 1.068 OPS in his first four games off the IL, and Kyle Farmer (0.6 percent), who's hit .406 with three homers, five RBIs and a 1.223 OPS this month.

ROCKIES

Their final six games will come against the Cardinals and Dodgers ... at Coors Field, a stadium where they own the second-worst home ERA, have allowed the third-most homers and have a league-worst .290 opponents' average. They also own the worst team ERA (5.40) in the game.

Players such as Los Angeles' Tommy Edman (52.4 percent rostered) — who hit .313 with six homers, 19 RBIs, 13 runs, four stolen bases and a .924 OPS in his past 20 games before Friday — and St. Louis' Brendan Donovan (42.8 percent) — who hit .367 with three homers, 12 RBIs, 12 runs and a 1.008 OPS in 21 games since Aug. 26 — are widely available versatile options who should be in your lineups.


Byron Buxton

Imagn Images

WHITE SOX

They don't want to be remembered as the worst team ever, but their pitching staff, which owned a 4.78 ERA before Friday, won't help. Neither will facing the Tigers, who are in a fight for the final AL wild-card spot.

Play any and all Tigers you have, and see if Riley Greene, Matt Vierling or Parker Meadows — who has hit .321 with three homers, 14 RBIs, nine runs and a .958 OPS in his past 13 games (and .303 in the second half) — are available.

Chicago will also play the Angels, so Ward and Nolan Schanuel — who entered the weekend on a 10-game hit streak in which he hit .389 with a homer, seven RBIs, five stolen bases and a .988 OPS — are options here, too.

jwilk@nypost.com

BIG HITS

Otto Lopez 2B/SS/OF, Marlins
At least one hit in 14 of his first 17 games this month — batting .333 with three homers, 12 RBIs, 10 runs, three stolen bases and a .932 OPS.

Shane Baz SP, Rays
Hasn't allowed more than two earned runs in any of his past five starts — going 3-1 with a 2.03 ERA, .119 opponents' average and an 11 percent swinging-strike rate.

Pavin Smith 1B/OF, Diamondbacks
Raised his average from .253 to .296 after hitting .375 with five homers, 16 RBIs and a 1.355 OPS in his first 15 games this month.

Michael Harris II OF, Braves
In nine games before Friday, he hit .342 with six homers, 10 RBIs, 11 runs, one stolen bases and a 1.207 OPS. He hit 10 homers since Aug. 14.

BIG WHIFFS

Anthony Volpe SS, Yankees
Struck out 20 times in his first 58 plate appearances this month while going 9-for-56 (.161) with a .333 OPS. All of his hits were singles.

Nathan Eovaldi SP, Rangers
Not only did he allow 11 earned runs over his past 9²/₃ innings (10.24 ERA), but he allowed four homers, a .391 opponents' average and a 1.190 OPS. He allowed 13 homers and 39 runs in his past 11 starts.

Alec Burleson 1B/OF, Cardinals
Entered Friday with 21 homers, but hadn't gone deep since Aug. 17. In 30 games since, he hit .233 with 17 strikeouts and a .594 OPS.

Seth Brown 1B/OF, Athletics
Had a six-game hot streak to kick off the month, but hit .121 with nine strikeouts and a .273 OPS in his next 10 games.

CHECK SWINGS

- **Shohei Ohtani** became the inaugural member of the 50/50 club this week. Though he entered Friday hitting just .258 with 65 Ks since the All-Star break, he had 22 homers, 51 RBIs, 48 runs, 28 stolen bases and a .956 in that span. Insane stuff.
- The Mets' **Jose Quintana** went 4-0 with a 0.28 ERA, .182 opponents' average and .453 OPS in his past five starts. He has not allowed an earned run in his first three starts this month while going 3-0 with 14 strikeouts and a .147 opponents' average.
- **Hunter Goodman** entered Friday hitting .193 in 66 games this season, but he was 8-for-28 (.286) with five homers, 10 RBIs, seven runs and a 1.190 OPS in his past eight games. That included a two-homer, seven-RBI effort against the Cubs on Sept. 13.

TEAM NAME OF THE WEEK

Nathan's Classic

Submit team names to: @NYPost_Roto

Don't shift strategy at the end

THE FANTASY baseball season is coming to a close and everyone is looking to make that one last push to reach the top of the mountain.

Coming this far is no easy feat, unless you have a fantasy sherpa like Shohei Ohtani leading you to the promised land. So though we are not in the business of handing out participation trophies, some accolades can be given for making it this far. But it's not over. There is still more work to be done. The real question is: Now that you've made it this far, can you finish the job?



Howard Bender

There are no more hidden gems to unearth. The MLB rosters are set. The playoff contenders are playing their best guys and the eliminated teams are auditioning their youngsters. There is very little chance you're going to read a fantasy baseball article and see a name you had no idea was worthy of your roster.

The best advice someone can give you right now is to just do what you've been doing for the past six months. You didn't get here without hard work, reading up on the news, crunching numbers and being very specific with your waiver wire moves. For you to do anything different at this point would be silly. Maybe if you're in third place in your rotisserie league and you want to overload your final week's roster with players who focus on your most-needed and most-movable categories, but that's about it.

It is about finishing strong. You've come this far after a long and arduous grind.

We can sit here and use all the classic end-of-season clichés. We can go to Dan Fouts in "The Waterboy": "It's the last game of the season, can't hold anything back." We can give you Cliff Murdoch's speech from "Rookie of the Year": "There is no tomorrow. This is for the whole Magila, the whole ball of wax, the whole kit and kaboodle, for the whole enchilada!" We can even just go simple and quote Adrian who told Rocky to just go out there and, "Win!"

Howard Bender is the head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to FantasyAlarm.com for all your fantasy baseball news and advice.

It's SuperFran!

Alvarez's power alive & well against Phillies

By MARK W. SANCHEZ



DOUBLE DUTY: Mets catcher Francisco Alvarez follows through on a two-run double during the seventh inning Saturday at Citi Field. Jason Szenes

In Francisco Alvarez's first 85 games of what statistically was a disappointing sophomore season, the Mets catcher slugged six home runs.

In his past nine games, Alvarez has demolished five.

At the right time of the calendar, Alvarez has transformed into the powerful slugger who became baseball's best prospect and who crushed 25 home runs in his rookie campaign last year.

Speaking of transforming, Alvarez's demeanor and performance has led to a few animalistic compliments.

"He's almost foaming at the mouth to get up [to the plate] there," Brandon Nimmo said to laughs.

"He's a dog back there," added Sean Manaea, who was excellent in seven-plus innings throwing to Alvarez.

Alvarez was a beast again Saturday, when he pulled a homer into the left-field seats to tie the game in the second inning and added a two-run double in the seventh to add a cushion to what became a 6-3 win over the Phillies at Citi Field.

The 22-year-old catcher missed nearly two months upon requiring surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb in April. He came back before his stroke did, hitting just .232 with five dingers in 69 games from his return on June 11 to Sept. 10.

He put in countless hours working with hitting coaches Jeremy Barnes and Eric Chavez, the tweaks perhaps only becoming evident in the past couple weeks.

"Hard-working kid," Carlos Mendoza said. "It looks like it happened like that, but he's been working really hard behind the scenes for months."

At a time when the Mets have needed production particularly from a righty — J.D. Martinez is in a deep slump and the Phillies pitched around Pete Alonso, who was walked three times and hit by a pitch in five plate appearances — Alvarez came through.

With the Mets down one in the second inning, Alvarez destroyed a Ranger Suarez cutter that jumped off his bat at 113.8 mph for the hardest hit homer of his career.

The Mets had crept up by one in the seventh inning when Alvarez delivered with two outs. His drive into left-center split the outfielders and landed, padding the lead and allowing the fifth-largest crowd in regular-season Citi Field history to take a breath.

In the biggest moments, it seems as if Alvarez, too, can breathe.

"Those moments make me different," Alvarez said.

Senga sharp with scoreless rehab outing in Syracuse

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Kodai Senga threw one scoreless inning while walking one and striking out two on 15 pitches with Triple-A Syracuse.

The righty, who is recovering from a left calf strain, did not throw a second inning perhaps because the Syracuse offense scored eight runs in a lengthy bottom of the first.

It was Senga's first and possibly only rehab start. He could make a major league return, likely as an opener, for the final series of the season in Milwaukee.

➤ **J.D. Martinez**, one of the best lefty-killers of the past decade, sat for a second time in four games against an opposing southpaw.

Martinez is 0-for-29 in his past eight games, his OPS plunging to .726, and was replaced at designated hitter by **Starling Marte**.

Manager **Carlos Mendoza** called the decision a "combination of a lot of things," and an afternoon game that followed a night game played a role. But the biggest factor involved Martinez, a hired slugger, not slugging.

"He's going through a tough stretch, and it's hard," Mendoza said of the 37-year-old. "But we also got some other players that are performing and playing well."

Martinez also watched from the dugout Wednesday, when the Mets teed off against Washington

METS NOTES

lefty **DJ Herz**. Martinez owns a career .946 OPS against southpaws, feasting on them regularly since his breakout season in 2014 with the Tigers.

But rarely has Martinez struggled like this, a rare ineffective bat in a lineup that has mostly come alive this month. Marte, who batted second, entered play with an .880 OPS against lefties this season before going 0-for-3 with two walks.

Despite the absence, Martinez has mostly continued to play despite his slide, and Mendoza suggested that will continue.

"He's a really good hitter, he's a professional hitter," Mendoza said. "It's not the first time he's been through a slump like this. He will continue to grind. He will continue to work on his mechanics. He'll step up — he's too good of a hitter."

➤ If the Mets do not adjust their rotation, it would be **Jose Quintana**, **Luis Severino** and **David Peterson**, in that order, pitching in Atlanta.

The Mets could bring back **Sean Manaea** on four days of rest and bump Peterson to the ensuing series in Milwaukee.

"We're having those discussions now," Mendoza said before adding Peterson is "in play" to get a start against the Braves.

➤ It is "safe to say" **Paul Blackburn** is out for the rest of the regular season, Mendoza said.

The righty is throwing and building up following a diagnosis of a spinal fluid leak in his back last week. But the series of bullpen sessions and live sessions that would be needed before a return have ended at least his regular season.

"It's hard to put a timeline [on a return]," Mendoza said of Blackburn, who made three good starts and two poor starts with the Mets that added up to a 5.18 ERA.

➤ **Christian Scott** is set for Monday elbow surgery, Tommy John with an internal brace.

New York Post, Sunday, September 22, 2024 nypost.com

DREAM BIG!

Liberty's quest for redemption begins with postseason tip-off vs. Atlanta

THE ONES TO WATCH: Breanna Stewart and the top-seeded Liberty meet Tina Charles and the Dream in the first round of the WNBA playoffs today at Barclays Center. Michelle Farsi

By PETER BOTTE

The Liberty and their all-male practice squad engaged in a feisty and physical scrimmage on the practice court Saturday at Barclays Center in preparation for Sunday's postseason opener against Atlanta.

"It was a no bulls--t practice, that's for sure," All-Star guard Sabrina Ionescu said. "It wasn't a shootaround, we were taped up and going live. The guys were in their playoff scout mode. So it's exciting, because I know we're gonna be able to come out ready."

Coach Sandy Brondello and the Liberty were singularly focused all season on earning the No. 1 seed, especially after falling short in the WNBA Finals one year ago to the Las Vegas Aces. That disappointment kept the Liberty as the only original franchise in the league still searching for its first title.

A 32-8 record ensures Brondello's star-studded squad home-court advantage throughout the postseason, including the first two in Brooklyn in an always-dangerous best-of-three first-round series against Tina Charles and No. 8 Atlanta.



The Dream finished just 15-25, but they ended the 40-game slate with a win Thursday night at Barclays, albeit with the Liberty resting All-Star forward Breanna Stewart and others in the second half with nothing to play for in the regular-season finale.

"Look, I wasn't happy with the way that we played. You get comfortable when you're at the top, and you can't," Brondello said. "Anyone can beat anyone, and I'm just trying to emphasize that.

"We go back to last year's experience, we nearly lost to Washington [in the first round]. It's about us. It's home court, but we can quickly lose it if we don't take care of business. It's about remembering how it feels. We all have memories and that should be enough, just having a little appropriate fear is good."

Hence, Saturday's fierce practice, including the two-way portions against the men, which Brondello described as "going up to a whole different level" of intensity.

"We had a great day to prepare and I'm excited to see the level of intensity we come out and play with [Sunday], because it's gonna be a lot greater than what we've done in the regular season," Ionescu said. "They're a team with nothing to lose, and those teams are dangerous.

"It doesn't matter if you're an 8-seed or a 1-seed, anything can happen. Losing in that last game motivated us and probably was what we needed to understand that every team is going to come in here and give us their best shot."

Indeed, as Brondello recalled, the Liberty needed overtime in

Three keys

The league-best Liberty (32-8) took three of four in the season series against the No. 8 Dream, with the lone loss coming with nothing to play for in Thursday night's regular-season finale at Barclays Center. Here are three keys to look for during the best-of-three first-round matchup:

1 DIGGING DEEP: The Liberty advanced to the WNBA Finals before losing to Las Vegas last fall in the first year of its superteam alignment, led by former league MVPs Breanna Stewart and Jonquel Jones and All-Star guard Sabrina Ionescu. Sandy Brondello's star-studded squad has shown better overall depth this year, helping keep the Big 3 fresh for another extended postseason run.

2 FOR STARTERS: Brondello said she hasn't made a final decision, but she had rookie forward Leonie Fiebich (below) working with the starting unit during the portion of Saturday's practice that was open to the media, in place of guard Courtney Vandersloot. That could give the Liberty first unit more size to combat a Dream team that scored 46 points in the paint in its win Thursday at Barclays Center.

3 SPOIL THE HOMECOMING: Dream forward Tina Charles, a Queens native, was a five-time All-Star with the Libs from 2014-19. Jones and the Liberty bigs need to keep the 35-year-old Christ the King product — and the WNBA's all-time leading rebounder — off the glass after she finished fourth in the league with 9.6 boards per game during the regular season.

— Peter Botte

Getty Images

Game 2 to sweep the Mystics in last year's first round to avoid conceding home-court advantage to Washington for a decisive third game.

"I'm really excited to be at this point, because this is where we start to chase our goal," said Stewart, a two-time WNBA champion earlier in her career with the Seattle Storm. "The 1-seed definitely was one of our goals. We wanted to make sure that we clinched home court, especially in this league, where you see it, games are so tough, and we want to have our home crowd behind us. We have to win at home, and we don't want to go to Atlanta for the third one."

Stewart, the former UConn standout and the 2023 league MVP in her first season in New York, added that she was "excited to come in today and get after it a little bit, just to be ready for what's to come" in pursuit of the franchise's elusive first title.

"This is the best time of year, this is why you play, this is what you're playing for," Stewart said. "I'm excited to share some new memories with some new teammates, and have everyone remember that feeling of what it's like to play playoff basketball at Barclays."

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Playoff Fever: Clark takes center stage

By JONATHAN LEHMAN



WONDER WOMAN: Caitlin Clark's rookie season in the WNBA has been must-see TV, and her postseason debut Sunday with the Indiana Fever should be a ratings boon. Getty Images

Put your mouths where the money is.

For ESPN and the increasingly popular national spectacle of the WNBA playoffs, that means reserving the Sunday afternoon broadcast television window and dispatching the announcing A-team of Ryan Ruocco and Rebecca Lobo to Uncasville, Conn., where rookie phenom Caitlin Clark will make her eagerly anticipated playoff debut at 3 p.m. on ABC.

No. 22 is pulling up from 3. You're pulling up a chair.

The presumptive Rookie of the Year steered the sixth-seeded Indiana Fever (20-20) to the postseason for the first time since 2016 with a stunning rebound from a 1-8 start — the Fever went 9-5 after Clark was left off the Olympics team and received a much-needed month-long break — setting the league's single-season assists record and a slew of viewership and attendance marks along the way.

Now her young, up-tempo squad, which ranks third in the league in offensive rating behind Clark's 19.2 points and 8.4 assists per game, encounters a veteran-laden, physical foe in the No. 3 seed Connecticut Sun, who lead in the league in defensive rating.

Clark cemented her profound cultural reputation in the madness of March. What can she do on the stage of September?

"Once we get there, I think it'll feel a little more real and, obviously, we're not just happy to be there," Clark said. "We really believe we can compete with every single team that's going to be in the playoffs."

Don't be mistaken. The playoffs are rich with other storylines: The top-seeded Liberty enter as favorites to claim the first title in the original franchise's history; A'ja Wilson tries to steer her Las Vegas Aces to a championship three-peat after submitting arguably the best individual season in WNBA history; Diana Taurasi plays what more and more appear to be the final games of her storied career with the Phoenix Mercury.

But for pure intrigue and attention capture, competing against the NFL behemoth, baseball's homestretch and a presidential horse race, there is no WNBA equal for witnessing Clark's next test — certainly not in a traditionally upset-proof first round.



The WNBA playoff format has a best-of-three first round with the higher seed hosting the first two games and the lower seed hosting a potential Game 3.

If the Fever can steal a game in Connecticut, expect an extraordinary environment Friday in Indianapolis — the team averaged a league-high 17,035 in attendance at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, according to Across the Timeline.

"I always thought this year with this group that we were a playoff team," Fever GM Lin Dunn recently told ESPN. "The question for me now is: What can we do in the playoffs? Are we old enough, wise enough, tough enough, experienced enough to surprise some people?"

The Fever are priced as just slight underdogs in the series (+150), no doubt influenced by pro-Clark bettors. But as a proxy for competitiveness, no other series is even close: The Seattle Storm are listed at +375 against the No. 4 seed Aces, Taurasi's Mercury are 6/1 against the No. 2 Minnesota Lynx, and the Atlanta Dream are a broom-ready 13/1 against the juggernaut Liberty.

That portends a blockbuster semifinal between the Liberty and Aces, a rematch of last year's WNBA Finals — which ended with Sabrina Ionescu vomiting, Breanna Stewart passing up a possible game-winner and stunned silence at Barclays Center.

The Lynx, who emerged this season as the Liberty's sharpest foil, loom on the other side of the bracket, unless the Sun have something to say about it.

Or, more fascinatingly, unless Clark — who has made a career of living up to the moment — and the rising Fever can make a real run.

Now that would be box office.

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‘Great opportunity’ for Jones to secure role on blue line with Rangers this season

ZAC ATTACK

By MOLLIE WALKER

Zac Jones came into Rangers training camp with the same goal he’s had each of the previous three seasons.

The circumstances, however, could not be any more different.

This is the first time the Rangers did not bring in a brand new defenseman to directly compete with the 23-year-old for the sixth defenseman spot. That’s not to say there’s zero competition, because there certainly is, primarily with Chad Ruhwedel.

But all Jones has to do is reach out and take what he has been working toward his whole life.

Preseason
RANGERS AT BRUINS



“It’s a great opportunity for me,” Jones told The Post while sitting in his locker on Saturday at MSG Training Center. “That was my mindset over the summer, is I got to come in and play my game and really prove to these coaches and staff that I can play a full 82 games. That’s my goal for this year, is to come in and be a regular player.

“We got a really good team in here, and I think I can help this team out tremendously.”

Jones opened up to The Post last season about how much better of a mindset he had regarding his role with the Rangers.

Serving as a depth skater, fluctuating between the AHL and NHL and getting scratched most nights was something the UMass product had never experienced, so the 2022-23 season, in particular, was an adjustment.

Jones finally settled into the seventh defenseman role and spent the entirety of last season with the Blueshirts. The defense corps experienced several injuries, including a 10-game stint without Adam Fox, but Jones filled the void effectively each time he was asked.

“There’s definitely motivation from last year,” he said. “I want to be a guy that plays every game. Being a guy that was out for most of last year, being a healthy scratch, it gives you that extra motivation. I’m right there, but I want to be a little bit more. I want to be in the spot that these guys are in. I want to be battling in the playoffs. So it’s definitely extra motivation for me.”

The Virginia native made an impression on then-first-year head coach Peter Laviolette, who opted to stick with Jones as his 7D even after the Rangers acquired Ruhwedel before the trade deadline.

Appearing in 31 games last season, over which he scored two goals and dished seven assists, Jones skated with several different defensive partners — including Fox, Ruhwedel, Braden Schneider and Erik Gustafsson.

“I’d like to see him pick up where he left off last year,” Laviolette said of Jones. “He came in and it seemed like the more he played, the more the season went on, the better he got. Played with confidence at the end, his skating was good, he moved the puck well, defended well. I think that got better as the season went on, so you look for that progression inside of a player. Training camp is where it’s going to start.”

Jones said he felt good about the stretch of 13 games he got toward the end of last season, when Jacob Trouba was out with what we now know was a broken ankle. Building off that is the mindset he’s taking into training camp.

“I just thought at the end of the year I was skating a lot better,” Jones said. “I was using my feet more. I was being more aggressive in the D zone, jumping up in the rush — just playing my game again. I felt like I was back to playing my style of hockey and it felt really good.”

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IN D-MAND: Zac Jones bounced between the AHL and NHL last season, seeing action in 31 Rangers games, but the 23-year-old is poised to lock up a consistent role as the team’s sixth defenseman in 2024-25. Robert Sabo

Chytil eager for heavy preseason action to shake off rust

By MOLLIE WALKER

RANGERS NOTES

Five days after the Rangers lost to the Panthers in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference final, Filip Chytil was back on the ice.

Five months of last season was dedicated to rest and recuperation for Chytil, whose recovery from his fourth suspected concussion was not linear after he went down in the 10th game of the season. He had never spent so much time away from hockey in his entire life.

Now, both he and the Rangers are making it a priority to ramp Chytil up this preseason.

“I wish [to play as many preseason games as possible] because I didn’t play since Nov. 3, I played only six games in the playoffs, and [it] was like 10 percent of my ability of what I can do,” Chytil said Saturday after another double session at MSG Training Center. “Because, like I said, I didn’t skate at all before the playoffs. I jumped into it, worked hard and now, when is the preseason?

“I [hope] in the first game I will remind myself [of] game things, what I was missing and just go step by step every game. Take each game and go step by step until the first game of the season.”

The Czech center said it was important for him to play in the playoffs. It reminded him what the speed of the most important games of the season is like. So when he joined his skills coach on the ice at the conclusion of the season, Chytil had an idea of the speed he was working toward.

As for how Chytil feels about returning to hard contact amid his history, the 25-year-old said he is not scared. Getting reacquainted with the physicality of the game in the playoffs let Chytil know he was OK.

“Having him back in at the end of the season, it probably set him up to have a good summer,” head coach Peter Laviolette said. “He made his way back, probably wasn’t where he needed to be, just based on the season that he had. Now, he’s had the whole summer to train. He’s gone in, he’s come back in very good shape. He looks excellent on the ice.

“There are no limitations with him whatsoever. I actually think maybe the opposite. Maybe a little bit more is good right now to try to get back in, find his game and the game shape part of it and the feel that goes with the game.

“He looks good, he’s healthy and we’ll move through training camp, but he’s going to play in some games.”

➤ Defensemen **Casey Fitzgerald** and **Chad Ruhwedel** joined the main group on Saturday, replacing **Ben Harpur** and **Connor Mackey**.

➤ The Rangers will play their first exhibition game at 5 p.m. Sunday at Boston.

Phil Mushnick

EQUAL TIME

FOR THOSE of us who thought we'd never live to see the day, mazel tov! We made it!

There it was, last Sunday on Fox, during the Commanders-Giants game: an advertisement to purchase this season's Giants tickets!

Heck, the Giants have joined the Jets in immediate ticket-sales neediness, both after decades of waiting lists to be fortunate enough to annually spend a bundle to suffer bad teams, bad games, bad weather, increased TV commercial delays and bait-ed-and-switched kickoff times to milk even more TV bucks.

But Roger "It's All About Our Fans" Goodell and his "good investments" PSLs — his claim remains, to me, a false financial claim for which he should have been prosecuted — TV-money-dictated kickoff times, and increasingly unpleasant and more costly stadium experiences joined to ensure the inevitable "enough is enough."

And NFL telecasts and the NFL Network choose the worst behaved, shirtless, drunken attendees to cameo as the NFL's most favored and preferred customers.

Besides, with the NFL increasingly tethered to team and league-partnered gambling, now one can go broke from the comfort of his own home.

To think of the loyalists who would schlep to watch the Giants play in the Yale Bowl, Norm Snead under center, Spider Lockhart at free safety. Even during the cataclysmic gas shortage of 1973, Giants fans made it to New Haven then back.

But the Goodell Era has made take 'em for granted, take it or leave it and exploitation of big and/or holiday games hidden behind TV paywalls, increasingly easy to learn from. And civilized, eventually discriminate fans have been taught — forced to rent a hammer with which to hit themselves in their heads — to reject depositing money into the NFL's no-returns, no-interest-paid bank.

As Goodell's end zones now remind us, "It Takes All of Us." At least until the NFL runs low on suckers.



COME & VISIT ... PLEASE! The stands at MetLife are almost empty during the Giants' opening-week thrashing by the Vikings. There are now ads for Giants tickets during games — something you never saw before the team introduced PSLs, writes Phil Mushnick. AP

Was gonna skip game, but Romo's calling — said no one

WE HOLD these truths to be self-evident:

As we've entered Week 3, who will watch Chargers-Steelers on CBS because **Tony Romo**, at $180 million, is the analyst? And who will watch Ravens-Cowboys on Fox because **Tom Brady**, for $375 million, is assigned to the game?

How do we assess the 2024 MLB season? With this: Lousy baseball played by teams unprepared and/or managed to play anything better than lousy baseball.

But aside from games disappearing for minimized audiences to watch lousy baseball played on added-pay streaming channels, credit **Rob Manfred** for proceeding with those hideous, tradition-abandoning, street-cred "City Connect" Nike uniforms.

As reader **Joe Kane** noted last week, "Those beautiful red and white pinstripe Phillies uniforms were replaced" by an ugly, mostly black ensemble.

It was under Manfred that MLB umps wore FTX endorsement patches, a "don't ask questions" deal made with a fraud-based crypto currency operation that lost an estimated $8 billion of investors' money.

➤ **Greg Marotta** is a sharp, gutsy, urban-savvy sports guy, raised in Paterson, N.J. He's a former sports marketing exec who dealt with lots of shady dudes. His tales of dealing with **Jerry Jones** are perversely hilarious.

And he'd make a great local sports radio co-host, as opposed to the dreck we've for years been presented.

Marotta has a screenplay, docudrama or something or other, ready to go. The treatment I read hollers "green light." Marotta: "It's a 'Jerry Maguire' meets 'The Sopranos' with a dash of 'Mad Men' and 'The Gambler' mixed in. And it's mostly true."

Any manager or agent willing to give it a look should contact me. I'll even waive my usual finder's fee of zero.

➤ Guess it didn't much matter to Jim Nantz and Romo that the Bengals on Sunday went to 0-2 on a one-point loss to the Chiefs — a loss in large part due to Cincinnati WR **Ja'Marr Chase**'s unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

But with an LSU education and three-plus years in the NFL, perhaps Chase could be excused for "immaturity."

Gene Steratore, CBS' ex-NFL ref, gave it the truth: He said the official allowed Chase's initial meltdown for the lack of a personal foul call for a hip-drop tackle, but when the receiver persisted, he had no option but to toss a flag.

By the way, for a savings of millions and some likely better telecasts, I'd give Steratore a shot at being an all-game analyst.

➤ As heard during Thursday night's Patriots-Jets, **Al Michaels**, at 79, remains an adherent to classical, nuts-and-bolts play-by-play. Down and distance, often followed, when most useful, by score and time left on the clock.

Though "they move the chains" has become the faux-hip, one-first-down-fits-all expression, it's both vague and often self-evident.

➤ The A&E network last week included an advertisement for addicts to seek help at a medical center, followed by an ad for Bet Rivers sports gambling.

Follow which Eli Manning money advice?

GOTTA cackle during Giants games radio ads with **Eli Manning** endorsing a Jersey bank. You think these bankers would advise clients to spend their money gambling on sports as Manning and family do in commercials?

➤ The Mets' home finale — Fan Appreciation Day — was switched by MLB to Sunday night for ESPN money: Free cup of black coffee to the first 10,000 kids, 12 and under!

➤ As reader **Bill Sullivan** writes, we get it: NBC hired "serious broadcast journalist" **Maria Taylor** from ESPN for its NFL studio shows and a reported $5 million per so we can see what — or how little — she's wearing. Network football knowledge *begins* with full form shots of women in micro miniskirts.

➤ MLB would be so much easier to enjoy if all players conducted themselves as Mets pitcher **Sean Manaea**. He gives thoughtful answers to even thoughtless questions, he's polite, respectful, radiates class, and he's just plain good for what ails us.

➤ A Rochester youth league football game ended last week when one of the team's coaches was hit by one of those darned "stray bullets." Many of the traumatized kids on the mostly black team no longer want to play. But **Roger Goodell** keeps hiring N-word-spewing, gun-worshiping rappers to rep the NFL during Super Bowl halftimes.

➤ StatCast is close to unveiling its latest: Agreement probability percentages of TV's ex-game officials with replay challenges after the live call on the field.

➤ How you enjoying the NFL's new "dynamic kickoffs"? Typical new-age sports rule change: Ready! Fire! Aim! That pass interference replay rule lasted one season, as it predictably replaced obvious bad calls and bad non-calls with microscopic maybes and challenges made out of what-the-heck desperation.

➤ Even last weekend's Solheim Cup coverage on NBC sacrificed replays of good and better shots to replay worthless scenes of first-pumping among the all female U.S. vs Europe golfers. But TV can't help itself.

➤ Still nothing from Temple University on its promised investigation into three highly suspicious men's basketball results as per the points spread. That promise was issued in early March. Should've bet the over.

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UNWELCOME

Mullings' clutch 2nd TD helps 18th-ranked Michigan ruin No. 11 USC's Big Ten debut

By LARRY LAGE

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan welcomed Southern California to the Big Ten with a heavy dose of smashmouth football.

Kalel Mullings surged 2 yards for a touchdown on fourth-and-goal with 37 seconds left, lifting the 18th-ranked Wolverines to a 27-24 win over the 11th-ranked Trojans in their conference debut.

MICHIGAN	27
USC	24

Michigan (3-1, 1-0) overcame losing a 14-0 lead in the first half and coughing up two fumbles in the second half to extend its Big Ten winning streak to a school-record 26 games.

The Wolverines won with a 10-play, 89-yard TD drive as Mullings did most of the work.

The former linebacker converted a third down from the Michigan 20 with a 63-yard run and capped the possession with his second touchdown behind a fullback in a jumbo package that left little doubt where the ball was going.

"It's not five guys, it's seven with the tight ends out there," Mullings said.

Michigan and USC had played 10 times previously, eight in the Rose Bowl and not in the regular season since 1958.

The Trojans (2-1, 0-1) went ahead 24-20 midway through the fourth when Miller Moss threw his third touchdown pass, a 24-yarder to Ja'Kobi Lane.

USC's last chance ended with a fourth-down throw that came up short of the stick near midfield.

"I think it was just a classic, back-and-forth fight," Trojans coach Lincoln Riley said.

Mullings had a career-high 159 yards rushing, including a 53-yard scoring run to put the Wolverines ahead early, and Donovan Edwards had a 41-yard run to give them a two-touchdown lead.

Moss was 28 of 51 for 283 yards with a season-high three touchdowns and an interception that was returned for Michigan's only other second-half score.

"I feel like I cost our team in a big way," he said.

USC's Woody Marks ran for 100 yards on 13 carries, and ripped the football out of Kenneth Grant's hand after the big defensive tackle had recovered a fumble for Michigan.

Moss bounced back from throwing a pick-6 to Will Johnson that gave the defending national champions a double-digit lead in third quarter with a 16-yard touchdown pass to Jay Fair later in the period. His third touchdown pass to Lane with 7:01 left in the fourth came after Marks' steal deep in Michigan territory.

Michigan needed a touchdown, trailing by four, in the final minute because USC defensive tackle Gavin Meyer blocked the extra point after Johnson's interception return for a touchdown.

It also needed the clutch score because Edwards fumbled to set up a Trojans touchdown — and Michigan didn't have a passing threat.

"Teams are going to stack the box and stop the run, and we still have to run the ball," Mullings said.

Alex Orji made his first start at quarterback and was 7 of 12 for 32 yards and ran 13 times for 43 yards.

"If we threw for a million yards today and we lost, I'd be sitting here crying," Orji said. — AP

A-MAIZE-ING! Kalel Mullings celebrates scoring the game-winning touchdown for Michigan against USC on Saturday, ruining the Big Ten debut of the Trojans. Getty Images

Manning a winner in 1st start as Longhorns

Associated Press

Arch Manning earned his first career win as a starter and Jaydon Blue scored four touchdowns as No. 1 Texas ran over Louisiana-Monroe, 51-3, in Austin, Texas.

The Longhorns took over the No. 1 ranking last week for the first time since 2008 and made quick work of the Warhawks with Manning starting in place of injured regular starting quarterback Quinn Ewers, who was out with an abdominal strain.

No. 3 Ohio St. 49, Marshall 14

Quinshon Judkins rushed for 173 yards and two touchdowns, Emeka Egbuka had 117 yards receiving and a TD and Ohio State overcame an early push by Marshall to pull away and win in Columbus, Ohio.

No. 6 Tennessee 25, No. 15 Oklahoma 15

In Norman, Okla., Tennessee coach Josh Heupel won in his return to Oklahoma — the same school he quarterbacked to a national championship in 2000 and that fired him as offensive coordinator after the 2014 season — as Nico Iamaleava passed for 194 yards to help

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

the Volunteers defeat the Sooners.

No. 7 Missouri 30, Vanderbilt 27, 2OT

In Columbia, Mo., Blake Craig made up for three missed field goals in regulation by hitting from 37 yards in the second overtime, and Vanderbilt kicker Brock Taylor missed a 31-yarder to keep the game going to allow Missouri to escape with a win in double-overtime.

No. 8 Miami 50, S. Florida 15

In Tampa, Fla., Miami's Cam Ward threw for 404 yards and three touchdowns while becoming the 13th player in NCAA history to top 15,000 career passing yards to help the Hurricanes rout South Florida.

No. 10 Penn St. 56, Kent St. 0

In State College, Pa., Drew Allar threw three touchdown passes and ran for a score, and Penn State beat Kent State. The Nittany Lions outgained Kent State 718-67.

No. 17 Notre Dame 28, Miami (Ohio) 3

In South Bend, Ind., Riley Leonard accounted for 297 yards total offense and three touchdowns as Notre Dame shook off a sluggish offensive start to beat Miami (Ohio).

No. 21 Clemson 59, N.C. State 35

In Clemson, S.C., Cade Klubnik, a junior in his second full season as starting quarterback, threw for three touchdowns and added a 55-yard scoring run in the Tigers win over the Wolfpack to start ACC play.

Rutgers 26, Virginia Tech 23

In Blacksburg, Va., Jai Patel connected on a 24-yard field goal with 1:56 remaining to lift Rutgers over Virginia Tech.

James Madison 70, North Carolina 50

In Chapel Hill, N.C., Alonza Barnett threw for

WAGON

pound Louisiana-Monroe

388 yards and five touchdown passes with no interceptions while also running for 99 yards and two scores for the Dukes in a stunning rout of the Tar Heels.

Army 37, Rice 14

In West Point, Bryson Daily ran for three touchdowns and passed for two more to lead Army over Rice.

Boston College 23, Michigan St. 19

In Chestnut Hill, Mass., Thomas Castellanos hit Lewis Bond for a 42-yard touchdown pass with 88 seconds left and Boston College rallied to beat Michigan State for an emotional victory in the Eagles' annual Red Bandanna Game.

BC improved to 5-6 in the Red Bandanna Game, which honors the memory of Welles Crowther. The former Eagles lacrosse player, who was known for always carrying a red bandanna, died while rescuing more than a dozen people in the South Tower of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

Columbia 31, Lafayette 20

In Manhattan, Chase Goodwin and Cole Freeman each threw for a pair of scores and Columbia opened its season with a win over Lafayette to give new coach Jon Poppe the win.

Dartmouth 45, Fordham 13

In Hanover, N.H., Jackson Proctor threw for two touchdowns, one to Q Jones, who also had a rushing score, and Dartmouth opened its football season by beating Fordham.

RUMBLE IN THE BRONX: NYCFC forward Kevin O'Toole (left) battles for the ball with Lionel Messi on Saturday at Yankee Stadium. USA TODAY Sports

NYCFC earn draw vs. Messi & Inter Miami

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

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James Sands recorded his first career goals for New York City FC, and in MLS, in stoppage time to help NYCFC salvage a point Saturday afternoon with a 1-1 draw against Lionel Messi-led Inter Miami.

Sands' goal came in the 95th minute with his club down by one in an important game late in the season after suffering an embarrassing loss to the Philadelphia Union earlier in the week. NYCFC are still battling for playoff positioning in the Eastern Conference.

The NYCFC midfielder leaped into the air to head a Santiago Rodríguez corner kick past Drake Callender for the equalizer.

The dramatic finish sent the Yankee Stadium crowd home getting their money's worth with the larger-than-usual crowd on hand in large part to see Messi, who was playing in the Big Apple for the first time since he made the jump to MLS.

"I'm happy with the goal," Sands said. "But I'm more happy with what it means to the team. It's tough when you play Miami, so to get something from the game where we fought hard, I think hopefully it can push us for the last couple of games."

Sands added that it was nice "to get [the first goal] off my back."

NYCFC saw their second-largest crowd in club history on Saturday with 44,738 fans in attendance in The Bronx — again, due in large part to the presence of Messi.

The upper deck of Yankee Stadium, usually closed for NYCFC matches, was opened in anticipation of the larger-than-usual fan presence.

Messi had used his golden leg earlier in the match to help set up Inter Miami, delighting the largely pro-Messi crowd.

Messi stormed up the pitch and threaded a perfect pass inside the box to Jordi Alba, who was able to get a quick touch over to Leo Campana for the goal in the 75th minute of what had been a scoreless game.

However, NYCFC did a valiant job of marking the soccer GOAT, minimizing his impact on the match for the better part of the afternoon.

Kevin O'Toole, who started at left back and was tasked with keeping tabs on Messi, called his effort against the superstar "up there" in terms of career achievements.

"To be able to hold him to no points on the board, that's a pretty good day at the office," O'Toole said. "It definitely took a team effort. [Rodríguez] was huge in tracking back and stripping him of the ball a few times. Whenever he was in my area I just tried to push him off that left foot."

Messi did not speak to reporters after the match, and Miami coach Gerardo Martino said that he only wanted to talk about the collective effort of the group and not about any one individual, including Messi.

While all eyes had been on Messi from start to finish, NYCFC had appeared to be the better team for large portions of the game.

The match was largely peaceful until the latter part of the second half, when tempers started to flare between the two clubs. In a roughly eight-minute span between the 63rd minute and 71st a combined five yellow cards — four for Inter Miami and one for NYCFC — were handed out and Inter Miami assistant coach Gerardo Andres Martino was given a red card.

There had been questions as to whether Messi would be in Inter Miami's starting lineup on Saturday afternoon, but he was included.

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SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH ... David PETERSON

Mets southpaw David Peterson throws some curveballs in a Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby.

Q: Do you believe you can be an ace?
A: I do. That is the goal for me. That's kind of the long-term goal when I started. You get in, you want to establish yourself, you want to be in the rotation, and then you continue to make those changes. I don't want to be whatever starter you put a number on. You become the fifth starter when you start and then you move up, and ultimately yeah, you want to be the guy that sets the pace, you want to be the guy that sets the example as to how we're going to be as a starting rotation. Yeah, that's definitely a goal for me ... to be an ace.

Q: From a year ago to now, how has David Peterson evolved?
A: I think the biggest thing was the hip surgery. Being able to have my hips working properly and not be restricted and obviously be pain-free has been a huge difference. I think that's had a connection to everything else. I think once that kind of got cleaned up and I was able to get used to a new range of motion in my hips and being able to fire 'em better and be more efficient with my lower half, I think has only helped me be more efficient through my core, be more efficient through my arms. There's nothing really arsenal-wise that's changed, just continuing to try and refine and polish my arsenal, but I think it all starts there with the physical stuff of being pain-free and just being able to move more efficiently and use the strength and the power that I have more to my advantage.

Q: What impact did your minor league mental coach Derek Mosher make on you?
A: Derek was awesome for me. I think sometimes, especially as I was coming up through the minor leagues, guys had a particular view on mental performance or sports psychologists. I was lucky enough to be exposed to it pretty early. My mom had kind of started with me young in terms of visualizing and breathing and stuff like that, and then getting to Oregon working with Ken Ravizza and then Brian Cain after him, I was open to that.
I knew that there was some things there that could help me, and Derek was great because he always took the approach of, "I'm always here." ... He was a sports psychologist, but he really became a close friend and someone that I still keep in touch with.

Q: Was there a time when your confidence wavered and was not where it should be or not where it is now?
A: 2021 was one of those instances for me. I had a good year in '20, obviously a weird year with the short schedule and everything that we had to go through, but felt like for me when 2021 started, I'd have a good start [then] I'd have a bad start, it was kind of playing this back-and-forth game. And as a young guy, it's hard to avoid it, but sometimes you start looking over your shoulder: OK, am I heading in the direction of them sending me down? It's not a lack of confidence in your stuff, but I think there's the whole aspect of the game that we play that can creep in, and it did a little bit, and then obviously I got hurt, so that was another thing to kind of deal with.

Q: You once talked about seeing nameless and faceless hitters in the box.
A: Obviously when I'm doing my scouting, I know who I'm facing and I'm putting my game plan together to attack them. But like I said, that's kind of where that confidence in being able to get anybody out comes from is I'm not looking at someone getting into the box and saying, "Oh this is so-and-so. Look at how good of a year they're having" ... When I get out there my goal is to attack the hitters, whoever it is.

Q: Is there one pitch you've made the biggest strides with from last year to now?
A: I think the changeup has continued to get better. And it's been something when I've gone through ups and downs with other pitches that I've been able to try on. The slider has gotten better, I struggled in the first half of '23 with it and it was better in the second half, and I've felt a lot better with it this year again as well. And the curveball's been something that we've been able to use alongside everything else either matchups and giving guys a different look.

Q: What does it say about you that you've been able to overcome all the adversity you've overcome?
A: I would like it to be seen kind of similar to the way that I play ... someone that's persistent, someone that's resilient ... and I'm not going to let things get in the way.

Q: How demoralizing or scary was it when you broke your leg in high school?
A: It was a big deal to me around the time. We were closing in on my senior season, we had a really good team. When it happened I was devastated, and didn't really know if I was going to be able to play at all that year ... but I think it's another one of those things that I'm grateful for. It kind of forced me to make the decision to go to college, which I knew was going to be a tough decision whether I wanted to sign out of high school [as a 28-round pick by the Red Sox in 2014] or not.

Q: Three dinner guests?
A: Tom Brady, Tiger Woods, Kobe [Bryant].

Q: Favorite movie?
A: "Ferris Bueller' Day Off."

Q: Favorite actors?
A: Bradley Cooper, Will Ferrell.

Q: Favorite singer/entertainer?
A: One that I've seen in person, Zach Bryan. One that I haven't seen yet would be Luke Combs.

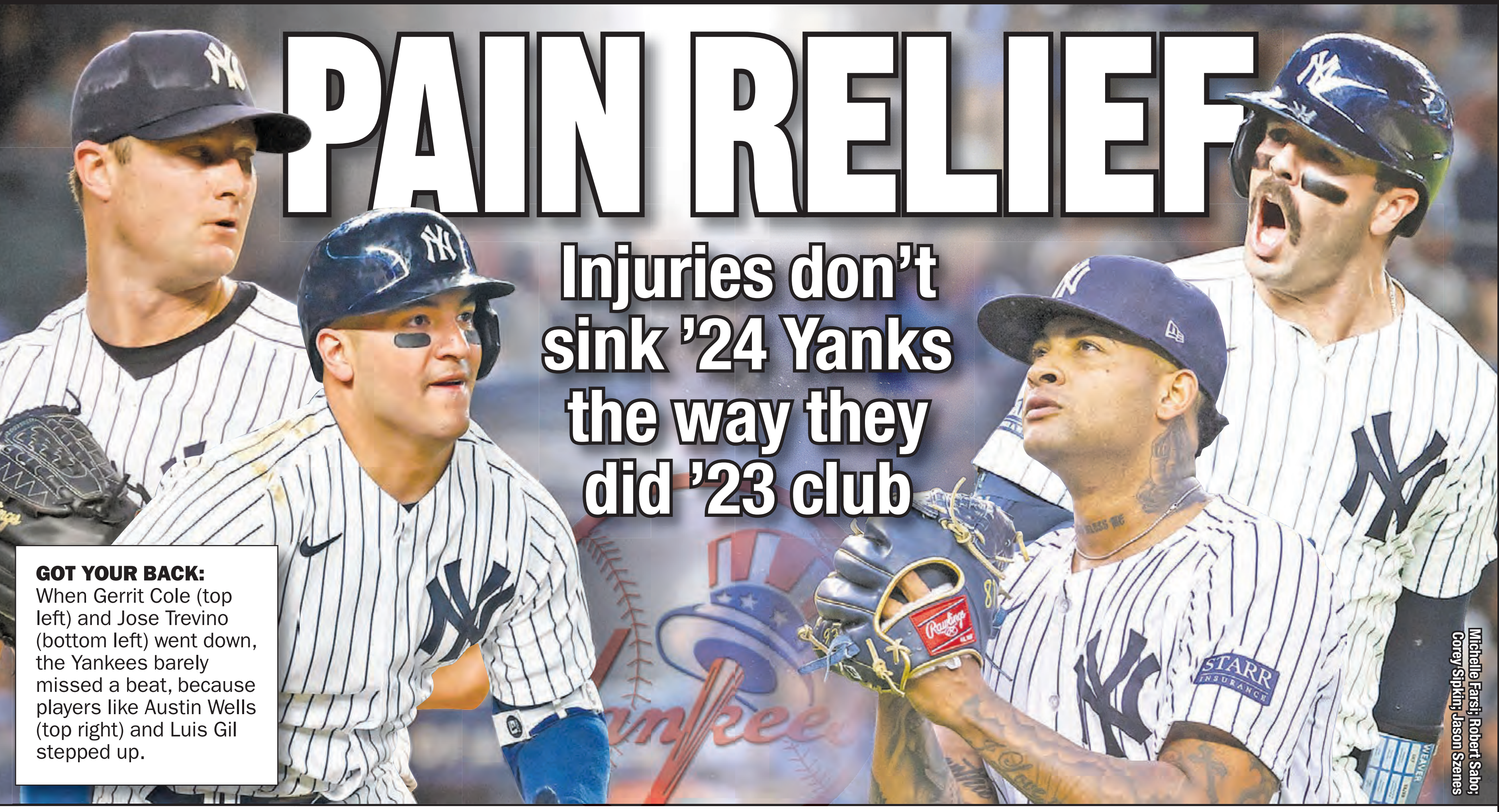
Q: Favorite meal?
A: A good steak dinner with some sides, maybe some mashed potatoes and brussels sprouts.

Q: What is your best goosebump Mets moment?
A: I would say the night that we clinched the playoff in '22 in Milwaukee. It was [Max] Scherzer's 200th win, and it was the day that we had clinched the playoffs.

Q: Do you visualize winning a World Series?
A: Yeah, that's definitely solely that I have envisioned and something that every year we're chasing.

Q: Tell me what you see in that visualization.
A: I think first off is when you get that final out, you got the dog pile, you've got that moment of finally getting to the top of the mountain and being the last team standing, enjoying that moment with the guys, and all the people that were involved in getting to that point.

Corey Sipkin



PAIN RELIEF

Injuries don't sink '24 Yanks the way they did '23 club

GOT YOUR BACK: When Gerrit Cole (top left) and Jose Trevino (bottom left) went down, the Yankees barely missed a beat, because players like Austin Wells (top right) and Luis Gil stepped up.

Michelle Farsi; Robert Sabo; Corey Sipkin; Jason Szenes

Joel Sherman
Hardball

IN THE moment, it felt like an omen — and it turned out to be. Just not as expected.

When the Yankees announced in spring training that Gerrit Cole had elbow discomfort, the concern was palpable. The rest of the rotation was worrisome and seemingly thin. So, it felt as if Cole was the Yankees' most indispensable player — even more than Aaron Judge or Juan Soto.

When Cole flew cross-country to see Dr. Neal ElAttrache, he was fearing the worst — structural damage, Tommy John surgery, his complete absence for the 2024 season. But the diagnosis was favorable, nerve irritation that would need medicine, rehab and a few months missed.

What followed is central to why the Yankees are returning to the playoffs, are probable to win the AL East and perhaps post the league's best record.

In 2024, the Yankees were not devastated by injury. Quite the opposite. The Cole injury was not a bellwether. And when there was injury, what emerged often was not a bandage, but a solution.

And though most playoff-bound clubs are dealing with worsening injury situations as October nears, the returns this month of Luis Gil, Clarke Schmidt, Ian Hamilton and Jon Berti have made the Yankees healthier and deeper than at any point this year.

Now huge proviso: There is still a week to play, and you see how quickly a club can go from healthy to not — Thursday, for example, Soto banged his knee running into a wall in Seattle, and Jake Cousins left the game with pec tightness. Neither was initially viewed as serious.

So keep in mind that one errant fastball to a wrist or a misstep on the bases could flip a healthy script.

But as the final week of the regular season began, the Yankees had six starting pitchers and were trying to deduce which three will align behind Cole in October. Meanwhile, two healthy pitchers, Cody Poteet and Lou Trivino, were being slow-played at the end of their injury rehab to provide just-in-case depth. And the one Yankees IL move made in September — DJ LeMahieu (hip) — actually made the positional group more versatile and better.

Besides the Yankees, the other strong contender who has had positive health momentum of late is San Diego — with the effective returns of Yu Darvish, Joe Musgrove and Fernando Tatis Jr.

Conversely, consider the other New York team — which is dealing with a late-season injury to their most vital player, Francisco Lindor, plus the losses of Dedniel Nunez and Jeff McNeil, and the uncertainty when and if Kodai Senga and Paul Blackburn are returning.

The West Coast Yankees, the Dodgers, basically have a rotation on the IL with, among others, Tyler Glasnow, Clayton Kershaw, Tony Gonsolin, Dustin May and Gavin Stone. The Orioles faded in the AL East race largely due to injury — notably to their rotation (Kyle Bradish, John Means, Grayson Rodriguez), but also their positional group (Jorge Mateo, Ryan Mountcastle, Ramon Urias and Jordan Westburg).

The Mets are dealing with Lindor, but the Braves have been without ace Spencer Strider since April, NL MVP Ronald Acuna Jr. since May, Ozzie Albies since July (the switch-hitter was due back this weekend to bat just righty), and A.J Minter and Austin Riley since August.

The Yankees have not endured that level of injury devastation, and what they did incur, they have compensated for generally well.

Gil pitched like a Cy Young candidate for the 2½ months that the defending AL Cy Young winner, Cole, healed from the elbow malady. When Jose Trevino was lost for five weeks with a quad strain, Austin Wells went from a catching timeshare to the starter — and eventually the cleanup hitter. Gil and Wells are going to finish top five for AL Rookie of the Year … and one or the other might win the award.

Jonathan Loaisiga was lost to a season-ending elbow injury a week into the season, and the Yankees did something they have been superb at for years — they found arms they liked off the trash heap and maximized their performance. That began for Ian Hamilton and Luke Weaver last season and carried over, plus Cousins and Tim Hill (like Hamilton) were pitchers who failed with the MLB-worst White Sox and became substantial contributors to the Yankees bullpen.

This is all a U-turn from last year — arguably the Yankees' worst team in three decades.

In a contentious conversation with reporters last November at the GM meetings, a feisty Brian Cashman said there was a need to separate the real reasons the 2023 Yankees missed the playoffs at 82-80 and the "bull[bleep]." And he explained "Injuries aren't bull[bleep]." He then listed a litany of injuries to key personnel such as Judge, LeMahieu, Trevino, Anthony Rizzo, Giancarlo Stanton, Carlos Rodon and Nestor Cortes.

Cashman's observation was accurate — and also a bad alibi. If you employ older or injury-prone players, they are likely going to fulfill their pedigree. So no surprise, for example, that LeMahieu, Rodon, Stanton, Frankie Montas and Luis Severino served long IL stints in 2023 — remember the GM himself ended up having to smooth over a relationship because he noted that Stanton was injury-prone and getting hurt annually was part of his portfolio. Plus, the 2023 Yankees dealt with freakish injuries to Judge and Rizzo.

But it also was a poor look to make this excuse because the Rangers had devastating injuries and won the World Series, the Rays did and on a shoestring payroll won 99 games, and so did the Dodgers, who won 100.

Those Yankees simply did not overcome the injuries with depth of talent or character. This year has been different. The number of key players lost was less. And the step up was better.

Judge, despite playing lots of center field, stayed healthy and might win a second AL MVP. Did anyone have Cortes, Rodon and Marcus Stroman combining for 90 starts? Raise up that hand high if you had Cousins, Hill and Weaver combining to give the Yankees an 11-4 record in 128 games and 159⅓ innings with a 2.60 ERA.

When Cole went down in March, the Yankees thought the worst. But they are going to play in October because the omen was neither that injury nor what was to come was going to overwhelm the Yankees, in part because on a few key occasions the players who stepped in, stood out.

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10-RUN RULED

Yanks explode vs. A's with homer-heavy shutout in penultimate Oakland duel

By GREG JOYCE

YANKEES	10	Boxscore
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OAKLAND, Calif. — In the Yankees' final series at the Coliseum, they spent Saturday launching a few last souvenirs into the stands.

Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton and Anthony Volpe all went yard with monster blasts that traveled a combined 1,287 feet to key an offensive outburst.

In a stadium that long doubled as a football field, the Yankees scored a touchdown and kicked a field goal as they inched closer to wrapping up the AL East with a 10-0 win over the A's.

"These guys are pretty incredible," said Carlos Rodon, who threw six strong innings to record his 16th win of the season — tied for the third-most in the majors. "I mean, this lineup's special. They're all great hitters. So it makes it easy for me to pitch."

With the win, combined with the Orioles losing earlier, the Yankees (91-64) regained a five-game lead atop the division with seven games to play and cut their magic number to clinch the AL East to three. They are also 1 ½ games ahead of the Guardians for the AL's best record, which comes with home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

"We're in a great spot," Stanton said. "We still got work to do, but we're good for where we are."

POSTSEASON 2024

AL EAST

Team	W-L	GB
1. Yankees^	91-64	—
2. Orioles	86-69	5.0

^ Clinched playoff spot

The Yankees' 15th double-digit scoring game of the season was more than enough run support for Rodon, who navigated some traffic to record his fifth scoreless outing of the season. The left-hander scattered five hits and one walk, continuing a solid run heading toward October while lowering his ERA to 3.98 in his 31st start of the year.

Rodon, who indicated he has been most pleased with his confidence over September in which he has recorded a 1.93 ERA, described himself as "a little fanboy" watching his teammates slug home runs.

"That's cool — the same watching him pitch," Stanton said. "He got his 16th win tonight, another dominant performance."

Judge's home run was his 54th of the season, a 425-foot solo shot in the seventh inning that put the Yankees up 7-0. Eleven years after he took batting practice with the Yankees at the Coliseum as a 21-year-old who had just become their first-round draft pick, Judge joined Babe Ruth as only the second Yankee to record two seasons of at least 54 home runs.

The home runs from Volpe and Stanton, meanwhile, were encouraging signs for two of the Yankees' streakiest hitters. There is often no middle ground between hot and cold for the duo, but if the Yankees have the likes of Stanton and Volpe rolling at the same time, their lineup becomes that much deeper and more dangerous.

Entering this series, Volpe was just 5-for-44 (.114) with no extra-base hits over his last 13 games. But he collected a three-hit night on Friday and then stayed hot on Saturday, crushing a 421-foot solo home run in the second inning — the longest of his career — for the 3-0 lead off former Yankees left-hander JP Sears. It marked Volpe's first home run since Aug. 3, going 41 games without one.

"I feel like he's getting to a stronger position consistently," manager Aaron Boone said. "I feel like he's behind the ball a little better, where for a couple weeks there he was just kind of drifting through the ball and pushing the ball a little bit."

Stanton had been equally cold of late. After grounding into a double play in the first inning (which scored a run from third), he was 5-for-42, including six strikeouts in his last two games. But in true Stanton fashion, he snapped out of the slump with a moonshot, clobbering a three-run shot 441 feet off Sears in the third inning to make it 6-0.

"Kept the pressure on and then Big G took the air out of the building with one of his Big G shots," Boone said.

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A-PLUS: The Yankees' Aaron Judge celebrates his solo homer with teammate Giancarlo Stanton during the seventh inning of Saturday night's 10-0 victory against the Athletics in Oakland, Calif., the city which the A's are set to leave after the 2024 season ends. AP

INJURY REPORT

- **Juan Soto** (swollen left knee) made enough improvement Friday to come off the bench as a pinch hitter in the 10th inning. The Yankees are not concerned about it being a long-term issue.
- **Jake Cousins** (right pectoral tightness) did not do any throwing on Friday, trying to take a few days to let the issue calm down.

ON DECK

at Athletics

Sunday, 4:07 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Luis Gil



2024 stats: 14-6, 3.14 ERA
Career vs. OAK: First start
Last start: Tues., at SEA 5 IP, 1 ER, 5 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

Fastball	Slider	Change
49%	25%	25%

RHP Joey Estes



2024 stats: 7-8, 4.78 ERA
Career vs. NYY: First start
Last start: Mon., at CHC 1 IP, 9 H, 6 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

Fastball	Sweeper	Slider
52%	20%	13%

UP NEXT

TUESDAY: vs. Orioles, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

WEDNESDAY: vs. Orioles, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

Soto returns to lineup following extras heroics

By GREG JOYCE

OAKLAND, Calif. — A day after leaning into his flair for the dramatic with a clutch pinch-hit double in the 10th inning, Juan Soto made his return to the Yankees lineup on Saturday — and stayed in it.

Soto had been a late scratch from Friday's lineup because of a swollen left knee from making a sliding catch into the wall on Thursday, but came through his pinch-hit cameo well enough to be back in the lineup a day later, going 2-for-6 and scoring a pair of runs in the 10-0 win over the A's.

JUAN SOTO

Perhaps even more encouraging than his two hits was how Soto was moving, getting up the line quickly while trying to beat out a ground ball in the fourth inning.

"That was encouraging," manager Aaron Boone said. "Obviously a little scare when he goes into the wall like that and then having to be scratched [Friday] night before putting his cape on and coming in and doing his thing.

"But I thought he moved pretty well tonight, so that was really encouraging."

YANKEES NOTES

➤ The Yankees have business to take care of this weekend, but their three-game series here also doubled as a goodbye to the Coliseum.

With the A's eventually set to relocate to Las Vegas, they are expected to play in Sacramento in the interim beginning next season, making this the Yankees' final trip to the stadium where they have plenty of history — most notably **Derek Jeter**'s flip play in the 2001 ALDS.

"For me there is [something special about it]," Boone said. "I've been coming here a long time. I've come as a son of a player, as a player, as a manager, as a broadcaster.

"So I've been here for a lot of cool times, cool moments. Know what an historical place this has been over the years and it's housed a lot of outstanding players and outstanding teams.

"So I'm very nostalgic of a lot of the places that have been around a long time. So yeah, it's meaningful to me."

Boone remembered coming here when his dad, Bob, was playing on the Angels in the early 1980s and he would get to sit on the bench.

Boone's debut as a Yankee also came here in 2003, when he had to face **Tim Hudson**, **Barry Zito** and **Mark Mulder** in the three-game series.

A handful of Yankees players and staffers on Saturday afternoon made the trek up to Mount Davis, the top of the bleachers in center field, to take pictures.

The Yankees went into Sunday's finale 147-135 all-time at the Coliseum.

➤ **DJ LeMahieu** (hip impingement) has started baseball activities, hitting off the tee a few days ago, but remains unlikely to be an option before the regular season ends.

➤ **Jon Berti** got his first start since May 24 on Saturday (with a long IL stint in between), going 2-for-4 with a hit-by-pitch while giving **Jazz Chisholm** Jr. a day off at third base against A's lefty starter **JP Sears**.

➤ Boone recorded his 600th career win on Saturday, becoming the seventh Yankees manager to reach that milestone.

AMAZIN' CHASE

Closing in on playoff spot, surging squad gets past Phillies behind Manaea, clutch 7th inning

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

The word that kept popping up was "unbelievable."

It was an "unbelievable" atmosphere, manager Carlos Mendoza said. Luisangel Acuna's steadiness and excellence in his first week in the majors, in which he has been thrust into a playoff chase, has been "unbelievable," Brandon Nimmo said. The desire that Francisco Alvarez plays with is "unbelievable," Nimmo added.

The Amazin' Mets have gained a new adjective in a campaign that has played out fairly unbelievably and is threatening to play out longer than expected. Saturday's game technically took place on Sept. 21 but had the weight and feeling of October.

It was not just the atmosphere, though, that seemed worthy of the postseason: The Mets are playing like a playoff team.

In what might have been the rowdiest afternoon in Queens this season, Sean Manaea was dominant and his offense loud enough, a three-run seventh inning making the difference in a 6-3 win over the Phillies in front of 44,152 at Citi Field.

The Mets (86-69) remained two games clear of the Braves in the chase for the final NL wild card and ensured they would arrive in Atlanta on Tuesday with the edge. Mendoza's group will enter its most significant showdown of the season having at worst split a series with the division-best Phillies.

"That's what it should look, [what] it should feel like," Mendoza said after the Mets — notably Nimmo — had asked for large crowds and got the fifth-biggest in regular-season Citi Field history. "That's what you signed up for. That's what you dream [about]."

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PHILLIES	3

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Speaking of dreams, Acuna — who a week and change ago was finishing off a disappointing season with Triple-A Syracuse before Francisco Lindor's injury changed everything — launched his third homer in just his eighth big league game.

"I wasn't expecting to be here a couple of weeks ago," Acuna said through interpreter Alan Suriel after his home run in the second inning gave the Mets a 2-1 lead.

Acuna's solo shot came two batters after Alvarez smoked his fifth dinger in his past nine games. Months of offensive struggles — and behind-the-scenes work to find his stroke — have begun to pay off.

"I feel more powerful. I feel more like last year," said Alvarez, whose biggest swing arrived later in the game.

A tie game was decided in the seventh, when a Mets team that had left too many on base finally capitalized.

Against dominant righty Orion Kerkering, the Mets mounted a threat with Starling Marte walking and Pete Alonso (who had one hit but reached base five times) getting drilled. With one out, Nimmo looped a single into left field and screamed to his dugout with joy and, suddenly, a lead.

Two batters later Alvarez came through for a second time on the day with a perfectly placed drive into left-center. The ball seemed to hang in the air for minutes, but it landed having split the outfielders for a two-run double.

"There was no way he's going to catch it," a smiling Alvarez said, his confidence carrying over to some batted-ball luck.

The Phillies scored once in the eighth against Reed Garrett before Edwin Diaz entered with a runner on first and Kyle Schwarber at the plate. Diaz struck out the potential tying run and — after an Alonso bloop, RBI single added some insurance in the bottom of the eighth — Diaz shut down the Phillies in the ninth.

The Mets lost Lindor and have not lost a beat. They called up Acuna, have received countless step-ups from an offense that is rolling and continue to survive games that might be toss-ups.

Manaea was excellent again in seven-plus innings in which he was charged with three runs on three hits (two of them homers) without a walk and with six strikeouts. In 11 games since July 30, the lefty has only allowed as many as four runs once and has pitched to a 2.50 ERA.

He was efficient, needing just 89 pitches to pitch into the eighth inning. After Manaea let up a leadoff single to J.T. Realmuto, the sellout crowd gave him a standing ovation, Manaea returning the gesture with a tipped cap and a blown kiss.

Expect a similar potential send-off to Alonso on Sunday, who might be playing his final home game as a Met. The pending free agent's future is unclear — but then, so is his team's.

"It's not going to be his last game here," Mendoza said, looking ahead to October baseball in Queens. "We're planning on playing more games here this year."

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More Mets coverage / P. 67

Mets getting big boost from



Joel Sherman

WHILE FRANCISCO Lindor has been out with a back injury, Shohei Ohtani pretty much obliterated all NL MVP conversation.

No surprise there. Ohtani is the most talented player in the world — arguably ever. Once he soared beyond 50 homers and 50 steals in a season, Ohtani was going to own the voters even if Lindor had remained an Iron Man.

The surprise is how well the Mets have compensated for Lindor missing from the leadoff spot and shortstop in the week in which he has not played. Because they have not replaced Lindor with the most talented players in the world.

Jose Iglesias began this year on a minor league contract and contemplating retirement. Luisangel Acuna managed a .654 OPS in a full season at Triple-A. Lindor felt indispensable. Those players did not seem infallible. So what is happening is incredible.

Iglesias out of the top spot in the lineup and Acuna at shortstop are tag-teaming the responsibilities brilliantly. What good teams get in times of crisis are players rising to the moment. Iglesias and Acuna are rising.

They are not alone. Fueled by the fifth-largest regular-season crowd in Citi Field history (44,152) turning up October passion and volume, Sean Manaea continued to pitch like an ace and Francisco Alvarez's recent hitting revival persisted in what became a 6-3 victory over the Phillies that kept the Mets two games ahead of the Braves for the NL's final wild card.

But in this moment there is nothing as valuable as what is going into replacing the most valuable Mets player. David Stearns and Carlos Mendoza had been concerned enough about what it meant to lose their best hitter, defender and clubhouse voice that they called an impromptu team meeting before Monday's game against the Nationals.

Lindor said the message from management was from the Belichick-ian "Do your job" motif: "You don't have to be anybody else. Be yourself. We still have a lot of good players." Yet, the Mets are 5-1 since then because Iglesias and Acuna have been Lindor — and more.

"We got together [in the meeting] and said we needed to find a way," Mendoza said. "Nobody's going to feel sorry for us. There's a lot of teams out there that are going through it, missing players, and you've got to continue to find a way. There's a lot of talent in that room. Yeah, we lost a guy that was in the MVP conversation — he's the shortstop, the leadoff guy. But, hey, we've got to keep going."

In these past six games as the leadoff hitter, Iglesias has extended his current MLB-longest hitting streak to 15 games by going 12-for-25 (.480).

But there already was "OMG" magic around this season for Iglesias. The current revelation is Acuna. He homered on the first pitch he ever saw from Phillies lefty Ranger Suarez. He added a double and his first career walk. He has started the last five games at short and is 8-for-18 with six extra-base hits, including three homers. Meanwhile, defensively he is un-



BRANDON GETTING IT DONE! Outfielder Brandon Nimmo gestures toward the Mets dugout after knocking in the go-ahead run during the seventh inning on Saturday at Citi Field — helping ensure that Sean Manaea (inset), who went seven innings and gave up three runs on three hits, got the win.
USA TODAY Sports; Jason Szenes

POSTSEASON 2024

NL WILD CARD

Team	W-L	GB
1. Padres	89-66	+3.0
2. D'backs	87-68	+1.0
3. Mets	**86-69**	**–**
4. Braves	84-71	2.0

their whiz kid fill-ins

flappable and moves like a major league shortstop — graceful, with an easy, accurate arm.

"To ask a young guy like him to come in and step in and do what he's done, you don't get that every day," Brandon Nimmo said.

What the Mets had daily was Lindor and regardless of what is occurring in his stead, they obviously want him back. He intensified his hitting, fielding and throwing Saturday and said, "It is giving me encouragement that I am trending in the right direction." Mendoza did not discourage thinking that Lindor could return for the critical three-game series in Atlanta that begins Tuesday.

But even without him, Mendoza is correct in noting no one will feel sorry for the Mets because every contender is dealing with injury loss. The Braves, for example, have been devastated, playing without many key players including the reigning NL MVP since late May. That is Acuna's older brother Ronald, who speaks to Luisangel daily to offer encouragement.

Luisangel had perhaps his best all-around game yet — his defense was expansive, creative and flawless — on Saturday, coinciding with the revelation that Max Scherzer was being shut down for the season with a hamstring ailment. He had nine starts. Luisangel was the return for Scherzer at the 2023 trade deadline.

Even Acuna did not expect to be providing returns on the deal so soon, saying as of a few weeks ago, he anticipated completing his year at Triple-A. Instead, he is forming lineup bookends (first and last) and a pristine double-play combo with Iglesias, that pair helping to turn crisis into yet another crest on this Mets season.

That duo is allowing Lindor to heal without the noise that the team is plummeting without him. The Mets lost an MVP candidate, yet somehow gained good vibes and momentum.

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ON DECK: vs. Phillies

Sunday, 7:15 p.m., ESPN, WHSQ (880 AM)

RHP Tylor Megill	RHP Zack Wheeler
2024 stats: 4-5, 4.08 ERA	**2024 stats:** 16-6, 2.56 ERA
Career vs. PHI: 3-1, 2.54 ERA	**Career vs. NYM:** 5-4, 3.64 ERA
Last start: Tues., vs. WSH; 6.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER	**Last start:** Tues., at MIL; 7.0 IP, 4 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

Megill		Wheeler	
48%	4-Seamer	42%	4-Seamer
14%	Cutter	18%	Sinker
11%	Slider	12%	Sweeper

UP NEXT

TUESDAY: at Braves, 7:20 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
TBD vs. TBD

WEDNESDAY: at Braves, 7:20 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

- **Francisco Lindor** (back) remains day-to-day, the club targeting Tuesday in Atlanta for a potential return. The shortstop went through a workout before the game in which he took batting practice as a righty and lefty, played catch and jogged in the outfield.
- **Paul Blackburn** (spinal fluid leak in his back) is throwing and progressing "slowly," Carlos Mendoza said. His regular season is likely over.

Lindor might return to lineup on Tuesday

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Francisco Lindor will almost assuredly miss one of the biggest series of the season.

But the Mets hope their shortstop will be back for their biggest series of the season.

Lindor was out of the lineup for a sixth straight game with an ailing back on Saturday, a 6-3 win over Philadelphia. The Mets will finish this series against the Phillies at Citi Field on Sunday before an off day Monday leading into a three-game showdown in Atlanta on Tuesday.

Tuesday is the day to circle — or at least seemingly the earliest day possible — for Lindor to find his way back to shortstop.

"That's the most likely scenario here," manager Carlos Mendoza said of the start of a series against the Braves, which might decide which club advances into the playoffs.

Lindor feels "better," Mendoza added, before the team's MVP went through a workout Saturday. Lindor played catch, took batting practice from both the right and left sides — a day prior, he only hit as a righty — and went through half-effort sprints in the outfield. Mendoza mentioned that Lindor might take ground balls, although he did not on the field at least. Lindor left the field smiling.

Eight days after Lindor aggravated the injury running the bases, Mendoza continued to refer to him as day-to-day.

The team's rock had played in each of the first 147 games of the season and had been nursing back discomfort that escalated in Philadelphia on Sept. 13. Lindor returned to the order Sunday but looked clearly hobbled and was removed after just 1 ½ innings. On Monday, an MRI exam on his back was described as "clean" and it was estimated he would miss 2-5 days, a projection that has proven light.

Because he wasn't progressing quickly enough, Lindor received a facet injection in his lower back on Thursday.

"Trying to do whatever it takes to come back as soon as I can," Lindor said Friday.

Without Lindor, Luisangel Acuna made his fifth straight start at shortstop and has looked ready for the stage — entering play 8-for-23 (.348) in his first taste of the majors while playing solid defensively — and going 2-for-3 with a homer.

Mendoza said that Lindor is not a candidate to receive time at DH, which would save him from a grueling defensive position but come with its own complications.

"He [would have to] hit and then sit down, and somehow he's going to have to stay hot," Mendoza said. "We haven't gotten to that point. But the way we see it is, when he's ready to go, he's playing shortstop for us."



RUNNING INTO A BRICK WALL: The Jets offensive line protected Aaron Rodgers effectively and cleared holes in the running game Thursday against the Patriots, a rare sight for a franchise with years of difficulties up front. N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

BLOCK PARTY!

It's long overdue, but Jets finally have sturdy O-line

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Joe Douglas' No. 1 priority last offseason was fixing the offensive line. After starting 13 different combinations up front last year, nothing mattered if that didn't happen.

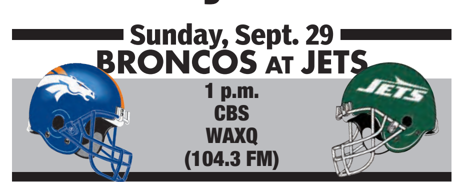
"I think that was goal one," the Jets general manager said in the spring.

After years of failing to get the offensive line right, either due to underperformance or injury, the early returns are positive, and that's even with starting right tackle Morgan Moses expected to miss a few weeks with a sprained MCL and bone bruise.

Of all the positives so far in the Jets' 2-1 start, from Aaron Rodgers' play to the production of Will McDonald at defensive end to surprising contributions by rookie running back Braelon Allen and receiver Allen Lazard, the offensive line might be the most important development.

Rodgers has been sacked just five times in three games. Last year, Jets quarterbacks were sacked a whopping 64 times, tied with the Titans for the fourth most in the league. They are averaging 100.6 rushing yards per game and 4.0 yards per carry, and that's with a shaky performance on the ground in the opener against the 49ers' robust front seven.

It is an almost entirely new group. The Jets traded for Moses and signed left tackle Tyron Smith and left guard John Simpson.



That trio joined second-year center Joe Tippmann and right guard Alijah Vera-Tucker, who was limited to five games a year ago after tearing his Achilles tendon. Douglas also used his first-round draft pick on Penn State star Olu Fashanu, who replaced Moses in the Patriots game and will start in his place for the time being. Coach Robert Saleh said Fashanu played well in his debut in limited action.

Tippmann was terrific in the win over the Patriots, not allowing a single sack, hit or hurry across 43 pass-blocking snaps, according to Pro Football Focus. He graded out to a career-high 85.8 in the one-sided victory. In the week 2 win over the Titans, it was Smith who graded high as the No. 3 offensive tackle by PFF.

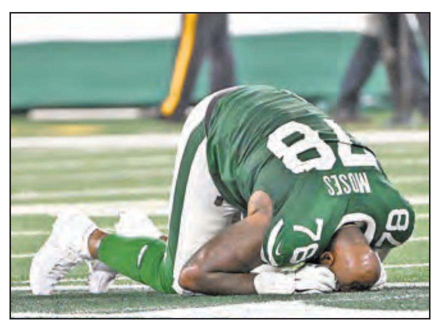
"Tyron looks great," Saleh said. "He's moving people in the run game. He's protecting really well."

Against the Titans, the Jets allowed just one quarterback pressure and one sack, and Tennessee has the makings of a strong defensive front. The run blocking was particularly impressive against the Patriots, amassing 133 yards on 33 carries, which enabled the Jets to dominate time of possession at a ridiculous rate. They had the ball for 40:04 on Thursday night in the home opener at MetLife Stadium.

It's obviously still early, and that group will be tested without Moses. There are a lot of age and injury concerns with this group, particularly with the tackles. Smith and Moses are both 33 while Vera-Tucker has appeared in only 12 games the previous two seasons. But so far, so good.

Early on, a Jets weakness for several years appears to be a strength. It's not a coincidence this is also the best the Jets offense has looked in quite some time, either.

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PHEW: Starting right tackle Morgan Moses appears to have avoided a serious knee injury in Thursday's win over the Patriots, reportedly suffering a sprained MCL and bone bruise. Bill Kostroun

Report: OT Moses out 2-4 weeks

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The Jets can breathe easier now.

Starting right tackle Morgan Moses has avoided a season-ending injury. Tests confirmed he only suffered a sprained MCL and bone bruise in the third quarter of Thursday night's win over the Patriots, NFL Network reported.

The expectation is that the 33-year-old offensive lineman will miss two-to-four weeks. Friday, coach Robert Saleh said the early prognosis was "decent," but there were still tests left to determine the extent of the injury. It seems likely Moses will at least miss the next two games, against the Broncos next Sunday and the Vikings the following Sunday in London.

While Moses is out, rookie Olu Fashanu will step in. A first-round pick (11th overall) out of Penn State, Fashanu has worked both at left and right tackle. Saleh said he performed well against the Patriots.

"It was kind of a luxury when [Moses] got hurt. You're sending out a first-round pick," Saleh said. "He did good. He's been getting a lot of reps in practice. Obviously, with the plans that we have for those two tackles, and again, he's another guy that we're looking forward to seeing getting better and better every week."

The Jets traded a pair of mid-round picks to the Ravens for Moses in the offseason that included a pick swap. He spent the 2021 season with the Jets and the past two years with the Ravens, after spending the first seven years of his career in Washington. Moses allowed six sacks on 524 pass-blocking snaps in 14 games last season, ranking as the No. 10 tackle in the league by Pro Football Focus. He was part of an overhaul of the offensive line that included fellow new additions Tyron Smith and John Simpson.

➤ LB C.J. Mosley was fired $16,883 for his hip-drop tackle against the Titans last Sunday. Mosley suffered a right big toe injury in the win and missed Thursday night's game against the Patriots. Saleh is hopeful he can return next Sunday against the Broncos.

Mike Vaccaro

ON MIKE

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Ohtani won't have company in 50-50 Club anytime soon

TABLE FOR 1

HOLLYWOOD STAR: Shohei Ohtani reacts as he's honored by the Dodgers on Friday night after becoming the first Major League Baseball player with 50 homers and 50 steals in a season. AP; USA Today Sports

IF YOU get bogged down in the question of whether a designated hitter should be eligible to win the MVP award ... well, on one hand I get it. That's the best of sports, after all, arguing issues with no clear hope of resolution. Maybe you believe a man should have to own a glove to win MVP. Maybe I don't. We can have hours of spirited debate and there's no clear right answer.

The best sports arguments are always like that. Who was best: the '27 Yankees, the '61 Yankees or the '98 Yankees? Who was the better running back, Jim Brown or Walter Payton? And, of course, the one that's been most popular in recent years: Who's the GOAT, Michael Jordan or LeBron James? (Though I've lately become empathetic to the case of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in this one.)

Should Shohei Ohtani be MVP?

Well, assuming Francisco Lindor was the chief alternative, that candidacy took a hit this week thanks to his ill-timed back issues, so it's hard to believe Ohtani *won't* win the MVP. But really that argument almost is beside the point, and obscures the more overwhelming truth about what Ohtani has done this year:

In a sport that's been in operation since 1869, he hasn't just done what's rare — doing the speed-power combo better than anyone before him — he's done something that's damn near impossible: He's set the bar so impossibly high, in real time. He actually *invented* a new category, the 50-50 Club. According to baseball-reference.com, there have been 23,359 players who've played Major League Baseball.

Just 47 of them have ever hit 30 homers and stolen 30 bases in a season — the 30-30 Club. Ken Williams was the first to do this, in 1922. He was alone in the club for some 34 years until Willie Mays joined him in 1956.

Just six belong to the 40-40 Club. Jose Canseco was the first, in 1988, and when he did that he was looked upon as some kind of one-of-one unicorn, and he was all by himself for eight years until Barry Bonds joined him in 1996. They have since been joined by four others.

Now Ohtani has invented the 50-50 Club, and he did that with nine games to spare in his season. Heading into Saturday he had 52 of each.

And I'm happy to be wrong about this, but I'm not sure there's another player who could possibly approach this who's presently alive. Maybe — maybe — Ronald Acuna Jr. might have, since he was the most recent member of the 40-40 Club before Ohtani, but when he returns next year, he'll be playing on two surgically repaired knees. Will he ever be able to run with abandon as he once did? It's worth rooting for, but unlikely.

And who knows just how deep into the 50-50 Club Ohtani is capable of going.

In any event, it's going to be a number that will seem to dizzying to approach. The one mark that comes to mind is Wayne Gretzky's records for both points in a season and points in a career. Gretzky has the first four spots on the single-season list, with a high of 215 in 1985-86. In the 38 years since, the closest anyone has come is Mario Lemieux in 1988-89, and he fell some 15 points shy. Connor McDavid this year had the most points ever for a player not named Gretzky, Lemieux or Yzerman, and he checked in at 152 — 63 points behind!

And as for a career, it's even more unapproachable: 2,857, or 936 more than Jaromir Jagr.

We've been wrong about these things before. When Bob Beamon broke the long-jump record at the '68 Olympics, he did it by jumping 21.65 inches farther than any man had ever done it before, an astonishing mark, but one that Mike Powell finally surpassed 23 years later. When Babe Ruth hit the 139th home run of his career on July 18, 1921, he passed Roger Conor as the all-time leader, then proceeded to hit 575 more of them. It took 39 years for Hank Aaron to catch him (and when you think about it, it's remarkable Ruth is still third despite having not hit a home run since 1935).

So, sure, maybe we'll see a second 50-50 guy one of these years. Maybe Ohtani won't spend eternity in 50-50 solitary confinement. But I, for one, am not going to hold my breath.

VAC'S WHACKS

This new basketball GM at St. Bonaventure, he'd better be ready to make the Bonnies Gonzaga of the East or else he's going to hear about it in the pages of the New York Post.

➤ Running always has been a passion for **Terry Collins.** On Sept. 29, the ex-Mets manager will run his first race, the 22nd annual **Stephen Siller** Tunnel to Towers 5K run through the Battery Tunnel. "T to T does such great work for first responders and Gold Star families," the skipper says. "I'm truly honored to be part of such a worthwhile event."

➤ Just for kicks, maybe the Giants can steal one in Cleveland on Sunday, because if you haven't noticed, it doesn't appear the '72 Dolphins or the '85 Bears are playing in the NFC East this year.

➤ **Earl Monroe,** surrounded by Hall of Fame running mate and pal **Walt "Clyde" Frazier**, NBA commissioner **Adam Silver**, Knicks head coach **Tom Thibodeau** and All-Star **Julius Randle**, will break ground on the Pearl's new 69,000-square-foot, five-story high school in the South Bronx on Wednesday morning. More than 400 students, faculty and a flood of other Knicks will be to hand to spread the Pearl's wisdom: "A ball and a book can change the world."

WHACK BACK AT VAC

Joel Tanenbaum: If Tyler Conklin keeps this up, he'll be dating Taylor Swift by Halloween.
Vac: *I can also think of no better way to honor Rich Caster, who passed last February, than for the Jets to bring their tight ends back into the offensive fold.*
Stewart Summers: Hi Mike, Francisco Lindor bought Jeff McNeil a Ford Bronco Sport for winning a batting title. What should soon-to-be bazillionaire free agent Juan Soto buy Aaron Judge, who he benefitted from hitting in front of this season? A Rolls Royce, a Bugatti? Both, perhaps?
Vac: *I think the Rolls is a nice No. 2 hitter to the Bugatti hitting behind it. I vote both.*
@frankboesch: This week was the 51st anniversary of the "ball off the wall game" ... remind me, was Richie Zisk the ghost runner on second to start the top of the 13th?
@MikeVacc: *Now, I like the ghost runner, but a few more tweets like this and I think I can be outstared to change my mind.*
Neil Ptashnik: As a Mets and Jets fan, I can't remember a better season. Mets playing meaningful games in late September and the Jets still in it in late September.
Vac: *I'm not sure you'll ever see a better WhackBack than that one right there.*

EVERY SUNDAY MIKE VACCARO RESPONDS TO READERS' QUESTIONS AT VAC@NYPOST.COM AND @MIKEVACC ON X

THE LINE

THE LINE	BRIAN COSTELLO	STEVE SERBY	MARK CANNIZZARO	PAUL SCHWARTZ	DREW LOFTIS	RYAN DUNLEAVY	STITCHES	MS. CHARLEEN	HOWIE KUSSOY	DAVE BLEZOW
JETS 6.5 (38.5) Patriots (Thu.: Jets, 24-3)	Jets (W)	Patriots (L)	★Jets (W)	Jets (W)	Patriots (L)	Patriots (L)	Jets (W)	Jets (W)	Patriots (L)	Jets (W)
BROWNS 6.5 (39.5) Giants (Sun., 1:00, Fox)	Browns	Giants	Giants	Browns	Giants	★Browns	Browns	★Browns	Browns	Giants
Texans 2 (46) VIKINGS (1:00)	Texans	Vikings	Vikings	Texans	★Vikings	Texans	Vikings	Vikings	Vikings	Texans
SAINTS 3 (49.5) Eagles (1:00)	Eagles	Saints	Saints	Eagles	Eagles	Saints	★Eagles	★Eagles	★Eagles	Saints
STEELERS 1.5 (35.5) Chargers (1:00, CBS)	Chargers	Chargers	Chargers	Chargers	Chargers	Steelers	★Chargers	Chargers	★Steelers	Chargers
TITANS 2.5 (38) Packers (1:00)	★Titans	Packers	Titans	Packers	Packers	★Packers	Packers	Titans	Titans	Titans
BUCCANEERS 6.5 (40.5) Broncos (1:00)	Bucs	★Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Bucs	Bucs	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos
COLTS 1.5 (43.5) Bears (1:00)	Colts	Bears	Colts	Colts	Colts	Colts	Bears	Colts	Colts	★Colts
RAIDERS 5 (40) Panthers (4:05)	Panthers	★Panthers	Panthers	★Raiders	★Panthers	Panthers	Raiders	Raiders	Panthers	Panthers
SEAHAWKS 4.5 (41.5) Dolphins (4:05)	★Seahawks	Dolphins	Dolphins	★Seahawks	Seahawks	★Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks	Dolphins
Ravens 1 (48) COWBOYS (4:25, Fox)	Cowboys	Cowboys	Ravens	Cowboys	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Cowboys	★Ravens
49ers 7 (44) RAMS (4:25)	Rams	Rams	49ers	Rams	Rams	Rams	49ers	Rams	Rams	49ers
Lions 3 (51.5) CARDINALS (4:25)	Cardinals	Cardinals	Lions	★Lions	Cardinals	Lions	Cardinals	Lions	Cardinals	Lions
Chiefs 3.5 (46.5) FALCONS (8:20, NBC)	Chiefs	Falcons	★Chiefs	Chiefs	Falcons	Falcons	Falcons	★Chiefs	★Chiefs	Falcons
BILLS 5.5 (45.5) Jaguars (Mon., 7:30, ESPN)	★Bills	★Jaguars	★Bills	Jaguars	Jaguars	Bills	★Bills	Bills	Jaguars	Jaguars
BENGALS 7.5 (47) Commanders (8:15, ABC)	Comm.	Comm.	Bengals	Bengals	★Comm.	Bengals	Bengals	Comm.	Comm.	★Comm.

Home team in CAPS ★ **Best Bet** **Lines reprinted from Friday's Bettor's Guide.** **For updated lines, see Page 62.**



De'Von Achane

AP

Tua-less Fins aren't finished

Erich Richter
Game Day

SUNDAY

Dolphins (+4.5) vs. SEAHAWKS: No Tua Tagovailoa, no problem. Skylar Thompson gets 10 days to prepare for a Seahawks team that needed overtime to beat the Patriots. De'Von Achane will get an insane amount of carries, which is good news for Dolphins fans. Seattle allows 4.7 yards per carry, and Miami should lean into that.

Giants +6.5 vs. BROWNS: The Giants probably would have won last week if they had a kicker. It's no excuse, but this team has improved. Their offense line rates as sixth-best in pass blocking, according to Pro Football Focus, and will be tested by the sixth-best pass rush. The Browns allow 5 yards per carry (26th-best). Daniel Jones and Big Blue run to their first win.

VIKINGS (+2) vs. Texans: Minnesota is a tough place to play, just ask Brock Purdy. Brian Flores' defensive unit gave the 49ers fits last week, and the Texans didn't look great against a bad Bears defense on "Sunday Night Football." With Minnesota fourth in DVOA and Houston fifth, the points are welcomed here.

SAINTS (-3) vs. Eagles: You have to love the Saints' offensive system. They have the highest-ranked O-line and face the worst run defense in football (6.4 yards per carry allowed). One team is well-prepared for games, the other is not, and is on the road, with a short week, after it just blew a fourth-quarter lead. Saints by a TD.

Chargers (+1.5) vs. STEELERS: A good old-fashioned slobberknocker as two run-heavy units face off in a battle of the tough guys. Is Jim Harbaugh really that guy? Sure looks like it. Rated No. 3 in total DVOA, the Chargers don't turn it over and they run the ball down their opponents' throat. They're also No. 1 in defensive DVOA. Take the points and L.A. to start off 3-0.

Packers (+2.5) vs. TITANS: Have to expect Jordan Love plays in this one after practicing three straight days. The line was 3 when it was expected Malik Willis would start, but it only moved a half-point when Love started practicing. Expecting this one is closer to pick'em by Sunday, and the Packers win outright.

BUCCANEERS (-6.5) vs. Broncos: Bo Nix on the road against Baker Mayfield's band of elite offensive weapons. Can't think that Nix will be able to score with the Buccaneers, and Denver's secondary grades as sixth-worst in football. By more than a touchdown for Tampa Bay.

COLTS (-1.5) vs. Bears: Two of the worst teams in the early going face off in this matchup. Indianapolis is ranked 22nd in Defense-adjusted Value Over Average (DVOA), and Chicago is 24th. The Bears are allowing 4.5 yards per carry, and they've faced poor rushing offenses. The Joe Mixon-less Texans and the Tony Pollard-, Will Levis-led Titans. Take the Colts at home.

Panthers (+5) vs. RAIDERS: No reason for there to be only one point difference between Andy Dalton and Bryce Young. Dalton is a professional quarterback who has loads of experience as an actual starter in this league. It should be a welcomed addition. Panthers could win outright.

Ravens (-1) vs. COWBOYS: We told you the Cowboys would lose outright to the Saints as 6.5-point favorites, and the same rules apply here. The Dallas run defense is pitiful, and the Ravens should take advantage.

49ers (-7) vs. RAMS: A hold-your-nose spot. Neither team is healthy, so throw out your models and analytics. It's a divisional matchup in which both teams know each other extremely well, and each team is missing their top two or three weapons.









POST STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Kussoy	16	15	1	.516	--
Cannizzaro	15	16	1	.484	1
Loftis	15	16	1	.484	1
Blezow	14	17	1	.453	2
Charleen	14	17	1	.453	2
Dunleavy	14	17	1	.453	2
Schwartz	14	17	1	.453	2
Stitches	14	17	1	.453	2
Costello	12	19	1	.391	4
Serby	10	21	1	.328	6

BEST BETS

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Dunleavy	5	1	0	833	--
Schwartz	4	2	0	.667	1
Blezow	3	3	0	.500	2
Costello	3	3	0	.500	2
Loftis	3	3	0	.500	2
Stitches	3	3	0	.500	2
Kussoy	2	3	1	.417	2.5
Cannizzaro	2	4	0	.333	3
Charleen	2	4	0	.333	3
Serby	2	4	0	.333	3

Kyle Shanahan knows Sean McVay well, probably too well. Opening at 8.5 and sitting at 6.5 is key. The 49ers' offensive guru is 10-3 against the spread against McVay, including 7-0 since 2020.

Lions (-3) vs. CARDINALS: If the Lions are what everyone thinks they are, they will win this game going away. Arizona is getting tons of respect for dismantling a beat-up Rams offense that was down Cooper Kupp and multiple offensive lineman again last week.

FALCONS (+3.5) vs. CHIEFS: The Falcons are among the best teams in football, you might just not know it yet. Atlanta is 13th in DVOA, ahead of the Chiefs (18th), despite an embarrassing Week 1 loss to the Steelers. Every week that Kirk Cousins plays should be closer to his normal. Back the Falcons to win outright at home.

MONDAY

Jaguars (+5.5) vs. BILLS: Staring down the barrel at 0-3, this is your prototypical "kitchen sink" game for Jacksonville. Trevor Lawrence has lost seven straight games, and I refuse to believe he's that bad. The Bills are playing with house money right now being 2-0 and could be 3-0, but 5.5 is too good a number to pass up. Jacksonville goes down by a field goal but still covers.

BENGALS (-7.5) vs. Commanders: The Commanders' secondary made Malik Nabers look like a top receiver in the league. He may be that, but Daniel Jones isn't going to make him look like one against any other defense. Washington allowed 7.8 yards per pass attempt, the fourth-most in the NFL. Joe Burrow slices and dices his way to a 1-2 record.

LAST WEEK: 7-8.
SEASON: 12-17.

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Staying alive

TOP TO BOTTOM: Dak Prescott and the Cowboys, and Lamar Jackson's Ravens were both supposed to be Super Bowl contenders. Two weeks into the season, and both are reeling heading into Sunday's clash.

N.Y. Post photo illustration

Pair of contenders trying to dance out of early trouble



WHEN this game appeared on the schedule, it figured to be a matchup between two of the top teams in the NFL.

The Ravens playing at the Cowboys sounded more like a potential Super Bowl preview than an early season clash of two struggling teams.

The Ravens — at 0-2 for the first time since 2015, when they missed the playoffs — are the more desperate team here.

The Cowboys, though, are coming off a humiliating, 44-19 loss to the Saints, which ended a 16-game regular-season home winning streak.

"They just have things to fix like we have things to fix," Dallas cornerback Jourdan Lewis told reporters during the week. "We've got to get things tightened up so we don't have another slide like we did last week. And I know they're thinking the same thing. We've got to see who fixes what first."

The Ravens, who had the best record in the regular season a year ago before losing to the eventual Super Bowl champion Chiefs in the AFC Championship game, are well aware that just one team since 2000 has recovered from 0-3 to reach the postseason. So, that's staring them in the face.

"We're trying to right our wrongs [and] get our pride back," linebacker Odafe Oweh told reporters. "It's kind of tense in terms of: We do not want to go 0-3. That's not what's going to happen. Everyone is pretty focused and understands what we have to do, even if it's not outwardly spoken."

The Ravens will hope to take advantage of a Dallas defense that was gashed by the Saints, and Baltimore will try to do that by getting running back Derrick Henry going.

The Cowboys defensive front has been a weakness, and now they are dealing with injury issues there, with defensive tackle Jordan Phillips on injured reserve with a wrist injury and defensive tackle Mazi Smith having missed practice to early in the week because of a tight back.

Dallas allowed 190 rushing yards and four touchdowns in the loss to the Saints. Henry, who rushed for 84 yards and a TD in the loss to the Raiders last week, is surely salivating.

On the other side, the Cowboys hope to break out star receiver CeeDee Lamb against a Ravens secondary that's yielded a league-worst 257 yards passing per game through the first two weeks.

Perhaps the top matchup to watch will be Cowboys pass rusher Micah Parsons against Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson. This is speed versus speed.

Parsons was particularly outspoken during the week about the Cowboys' effort in the New Orleans loss, which included Saints TDs on each of their first six possessions.

"Everyone didn't play to 100 percent," he said. "That's just me being accountable and just saying the truth. We all got to play better."

On his weekly podcast, Parsons said, "The effort was not there by all 11 [players]."

Dallas defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer disputed Parsons' assessment, saying, "I don't really think it was an effort issue. [The Saints] beat us off the snap quite a few times, [and] we didn't get moving quick enough. I just got to do a better job."

Parsons added he's "trying to right the guys, get everyone to calm down. This is adversity. Don't shy from it."

Linebacker Eric Kendricks, who had two sacks and an interception in his Cowboys debut against the Browns in Week 1, called last week "a good piece of humble pie, for sure."

How both teams react to the humble pie served to them last week when they meet Sunday makes this one of the most fascinating matchups of Week 3, one of much consequence.

"We've got to find our mojo and do what we do," Jackson said. "We're not moping around. Our guys [are] not doubting each other."

Nor is Ravens head coach John Harbaugh.

"We're not going to be defined by everyone that's saying we're not any good [or] that the season is over after two games," he said. "That's what's going to be said, and we understand that. But no one inside is going to say that."

Since 2021, the Cowboys are 12-2 coming off a loss.

"[We've] got to reset and we've got to respond," Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott said.

"We've got so much ahead of us," Cowboys team owner Jerry Jones said. "We've got a lot of work to do. We've got a lot of good players that can do the work. I'm confident we'll get it done. We'll learn from this."

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NFL KICKOFF
WEEK 3

THE SCHEDULE

Game	Time, TV	Weather
Jets 24, Patriots 3	Thursday	
Giants at Browns	1 p.m., Fox	79, mostly cloudy
Packers at Titans	1 p.m.	89, cloudy
Bears at Colts	1 p.m.	Indoors
Texans at Vikings	1 p.m.	Indoors
Eagles at Saints	1 p.m.	Indoors
Chargers at Steelers	1 p.m.	79, mostly cloudy
Broncos at Buccaneers	1 p.m.	88, sunny
Panthers at Raiders	4:05 p.m.	Indoors
Dolphins at Seahawks	4:05 p.m.	65, chance of rain
Ravens at Cowboys	4:25 p.m., Fox	91, cloudy, retractable roof
49ers at Rams	4:25 p.m.	80, covered
Lions at Cardinals	4:25 p.m.	Indoors
Chiefs at Falcons	8:20 p.m., NBC	83, cloudy, retractable roof
Jaguars at Bills	Mon., 7:30, ESPN	64, chance of rain
	Mon., 8:15 p.m., ABC	81, chance of rain

THE POST'S POWER RANKINGS
By Drew Loftis

Team (W-L)	Last rank	Team (W-L)	Last rank
1. Chiefs (2-0)	1	17. Seahawks (2-0)	14
2. 49ers (1-1)	2	18. Bengals (0-2)	16
3. Lions (1-1)	3	19. Jaguars (0-2)	15
4. Eagles (1-1)	5	20. Dolphins (1-1)	20
5. Texans (2-0)	7	21. Browns (1-1)	22
6. Bills (2-0)	8	22. Falcons (1-1)	24
7. Jets (2-1)	**9**	23. Colts (0-2)	10
8. Buccaneers (2-0)	13	24. Raiders (1-1)	27
9. Saints (2-0)	23	25. Rams (0-2)	11
10. Vikings (2-0)	18	26. Bears (1-1)	21
11. Ravens (0-2)	4	27. Commanders (1-1)	29
12. Cowboys (1-1)	6	28. Patriots (1-1)	30
13. Packers (1-1)	12	29. Titans (0-2)	26
14. Cardinals (1-1)	17	**30. Giants (0-2)**	**21**
15. Chargers (2-0)	25	31. Broncos (0-2)	28
16. Steelers (2-0)	19	32. Panthers (0-2)	32

WHO'S UP: SAINTS. Blasting Dallas was somehow both surprising and the most predictable thing ever. But how easily Derek Carr & Co. are winning is impressive.

WHO'S DOWN: RAMS. Their two best WRs are out, their O-line is in shambles. How long before they wave the white flag?



TAKING CHARGE

THE HAR' WAY: The Chargers are off to a hot start under new coach Jim Harbaugh, and part of the reason is running back J.K. Dobbins. Getty Images; AP

Harbaugh's new team Bolts up standings behind run game led by resurgent Dobbins

Steve Serby
Serby Says

JON RUNYAN played for Jim Harbaugh as a Michigan freshman. He knows exactly what Harbaugh prizes and demands of a football player.

"He wants somebody that's smart," Runyan told The Post at his Giants locker. "Tough. And they're going to go until he says stop. He wants somebody that's always going to ask for more. He wants guys that are going to fight through adversity, and they're not going to break, they're just only going to get stronger as whatever — the elements, the adversity — tries to bring 'em down. He wants guys that are going to be mentally and physically strong enough to fight through that. I feel like he's tried to recruit those players to whatever program he's been at since he's been coaching football."

It is why Harbaugh and J.K. Dobbins seem fated for a marriage made in heaven.

"He's himself. He's unique. He's competitive. I think that's what's making him a great coach," Dobbins said via audio file from the Chargers' public relations department.

It wasn't so much the 211 rushing yards, four touchdowns and 49 receiving yards Dobbins accumulated in a 56-27 Ohio State will over Harbaugh's Michigan men in 2019 as much as it was how Dobbins has willed his way all the way back from a torn Achilles suffered in the Ravens' 2023 opener.

Chargers center Bradley Bozeman was entering his third season with the Ravens when Dobbins, easily the best player available, was the second-round draft choice in 2020.

"He's got great patience, he's got great eyes, he's got great vision, he runs hard, he makes people miss, he can see the game so well," Bozeman told Serby Says by phone.

Bozeman was a Ravens teammate when Dobbins suffered his ACL tear in the 2021 season.

"But to see J.K. just continue to come back, think he's had two season-ending injuries, and to see him just come back, pop back, and just continue to keep that same attitude and keep that same drive, it's just inspiring," Bozeman said.

Dobbins is writing a Comeback of the Year story alongside Aaron Rodgers. After the first two weeks, he led the NFL with 266 rushing yards on 9.9 yards per carry. He missed 43 of 67 regular-season games his three years in Baltimore.

"It's just the time and the place right now," Dobbins said. "I can't really say I'm proud or anything because I'm in the moment right now, working hard trying to accomplish my dreams and my goals that I set out, but it's pretty nice to see hard work coming to fruition."

After Dobbins became the first player in franchise history to rush for 100-plus yards in back-to-back games to start a season, Harbaugh paid tribute to the will of a man who saw this day coming when maybe no one else did.

"I didn't really have an emotional

low," Dobbins said. "I knew I was going to come back from it. Yeah, I mean it sucked that it happened, but I really didn't get down about it. I was pretty optimistic about I the whole time even when it happened.

"I walked down to the locker room and I told the guys I was built for it, and here we are today."

When Bozeman, following four years with Ravens coach John Harbaugh and two with the Panthers, was looking for a fresh start in free agency, it was clear to him that brother Jim Harbaugh, with former Ravens offensive coordinator Greg Roman, would be a fit.

"I know the Harbaugh family tree, and I know they're winners, and I want to win," Bozeman said.

Runyan is certain that both Dobbins and Bozeman landed in the right place with the right coach.

"His track record everywhere speaks for itself every place he's been," Runyan said of Jim Harbaugh. "I think the thing that makes him such a good coach is the people that he surrounds himself with, whether that's the staff or the players. He listens to them, doesn't have a big ego, and he's willing to take criticism and grow from that.

"He's open at looking at things from a different perspective, and guys appreciate him for that. Guys respond well to him and his coaching style, and who he is as a person. ... Everywhere he's gone he's been a proven winner."

Roman's offense wasn't built in a day. It's built to ground and pound (second in rushing offense). No one was surprised when Harbaugh drafted right tackle Joe Alt with the fifth-overall pick as a bookend for stud left tackle Rashawn Slater.

"It's smashmouth football," Bozeman said. "He is old-school in ways, with new-school tendencies."

Dobbins' emergence eases the burden on quarterback Justin Herbert. There is no doubt in Dobbins' mind that he is elite.

"Some really good vision ... explosiveness ... speed and power combined ... an all-around back that can block for you, catch for you, do whatever."

Jets left guard John Simpson played last season with Dobbins.

"He's a dawg, man," Simpson told Serby Says. "He was my locker buddy before he got hurt and went on IR. He's a great dude. He deserves everything that's coming his wayunyan recalls Jim Harbaugh occasionally mentioning losing Super Bowl XLVII to John Harbaugh's Ravens.

"You can tell that Super Bowl loss to his brother still really bugs him," Runyan said. "He wants to change that. He wants to go get a Super Bowl and avenge that loss he has."

Now the 2-0 Steelers try to stop Harbaugh and Dobbins from running the Chargers' record to 3-0.

"Everywhere he's been, it's taken time to build a program," Runyan said. "I think in a couple of years, they will be a really good franchise. They might be a good franchise this year. He's just proven everywhere he's been he's been a winner, so expect nothing less."

The great coach from Michigan embraces the comeback running back from Ohio State. The comeback running back from Ohio State embraces the great coach from Michigan. Go figure.

NFL teams struggle to groom young QBs

Mark Cannizzaro
Cannz Corner

IT MIGHT not look good now, but there is hope for a successful future.

This is what the three rookie quarterbacks drafted in the first round — Chicago's Caleb Williams, Washington's Jayden Daniels and Denver's Bo Nix — need to understand as they go through their predictable struggles.

And Bryce Young, too, the No. 1-overall pick in the 2023 draft who was benched this week by the Panthers after just 18 NFL starts and a 2-16 record.

The league is littered with roadkill among quarterbacks who were selected in the first round and immediately thrust into starting roles before they were ready. Young is the latest victim, perhaps given up on before he should have been starting in the first place.

When will NFL teams learn?

Yes, it's early, with the league in its just third week of the season, but between Williams, Daniels and Nix, they have thrown 196 passes without a single touchdown while tossing six picks.

Young had a 55.4 percent completion rate and just 245 yards passing in his two games, which also includes no touchdowns and three interceptions.

It's difficult to predict what will come of these once highly sought-after prospects. Some never recover. Some eventually find their way and a least touch a piece of their potential.

Three Jets quarterbacks are compelling examples.

Sam Darnold, drafted third-overall in 2018 and thrown immediately into the starting lineup on a dysfunctional franchise, is on his third team and finally appears to have found a home in Minnesota. Through two games, he is on pace to be the Comeback Player of the Year, having led the Vikings to two wins.

Geno Smith, another former Jet, began writing the script to his professional rebirth a couple of years ago in Seattle when he took over for Russell Wilson. Once a pouty downer inside the Jets locker room, Smith has been a winner since starting in Seattle, which is 2-0 this season.

Zach Wilson, picked second overall by the Jets in 2021 and thrust immediately into the starting role, has been a categorical failure and is currently clinging to his career as the third stringer in Denver.

It takes strong resolve from these young quarterbacks to persevere, and it, too, takes the right fit for them to finally make it. Darnold and Vikings head coach Kevin O'Connell appear to be a good fit. Having star receiver Justin Jefferson to throw to doesn't hurt, either.

"It's awesome to be able to have a coach and staff that believes in you," Darnold recently said, referring to O'Connell.

"We feel in our offense with the players around Sam can lead to him having a lot of success," O'Connell told reporters this week.

Darnold's former coach in San Francisco, Kyle Shanahan, agreed about the Vikings being a good fit for him.

"I thought it was a really good spot for him, and I was happy for him," Shanahan told reporters. "He got this opportunity because Sam more than deserves it. Sam is a starting quarterback in this league and he should take advantage of it."

So far, he's done that.

For the sake of the rookies starting now, and for Young, hopefully they won't have to get to their fourth team.

"Quarterback's hard, especially for young guys when you're not surrounded with the pieces, not given the opportunity to have success," Tampa Bay quarterback Baker Mayfield, a former No. 1-overall pick, told reporters this week. "A lot of the time the guys have the talent, they might have the brains, but they don't have the right opportunity, the right fit.

"I'm sitting here right now in a way better fit than the other places I've been. That's not to put other teams down. It's a matter of the pieces around you, the coaches and for Bryce — a guy who ... I can relate to — finding that belief within yourself again, he'll get it.

"His story's far, far from finished."

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GIANTS KICKOFF

WEEK 3: GIANTS (0-2) AT BROWNS (1-1) · HUNTINGTON BANK FIELD

PAUL SCHWARTZ'S BIG BLUE PLAYBOOK

Giants' message to each other: just do your job



CLEVELAND — Too much has thus far provided the Giants with far too little.

The confession was first revealed by inside linebacker Bobby Okereke and subsequently echoed by his colleagues on defense. It is something that must change, immediately, if the Giants are to answer the SOS distress call on their season Sunday when they face the Browns at Huntington Bank Field.

Simply put, the Giants on defense must stop trying to do too much — stop being busybodies and attend to their own business.

In the anatomy of the bizarre, 21-18 loss on the road to the Commanders, there were missed tackles galore for a unit that never got off the field in a very real way. The stats say the Giants pitched a shutout — six trips allowed into the red zone, zero touchdowns allowed — but the eye test was an indictment, as the Commanders with seven possessions (not counting a kneel-down at the end of the first half) went 7-for-7, as far as producing points with field goals — along the way hogging the time of possession, a glaring 15-minute disparity, to prevent Daniel Jones from targeting Malik Nabers 20-25 times instead of the 18 passes Nabers ended up getting thrown his way.

Okereke, a true team leader in word and deed, the next day talked about "discipline doing our job" and let the hammer down — on himself.

"Talking about me specifically, kind of three quarters doing your job, a quarter trying to do someone else's job, trying to make a play, and that trickles down," Okereke said. "I think everybody just needs to focus on doing their job."

Players trying to do too much to cover for those around them and thus ruining the overall scheme is a textbook self-critique when a team is 0-2 and wondering what the heck is going on. The problem is apparent and the solution is right there, as long as the Giants reach out and take it.

"Once one guy doesn't do his job, that leaves holes and other people feel like they have to fill that hole," fellow inside linebacker Micah McFadden said. "That goes down the line. You can have three dudes trying to make up for one person's mistake, and then we're all out of sorts, and everybody's covering the wrong guy or fitting the wrong gap or trying to make up for somebody, and that's when big plays can happen ... [if we] just focus on our one-eleventh and doing our specific job, I think we'll be fine."

This might not seem to be the case, but the Giants have generated the 10th-highest pressure rate in the league at 35.5 percent, according to Next Gen Stats. That Dexter Lawrence has eight pressures in two games is impressive. That Lawrence leads the team in that category is not, as Brian Burns and Kayvon Thibodeaux are supposed to be the pressure pals.

Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson always has taken sacks by the bushel: 62 in 2018 with the Texans, 44 in 2019, 49 in 2020 and 45 in 14 games over the past three seasons with the Browns, including eight in two games this season.

Can the Giants continue this trend and put Watson on his back? It might all come down to their defenders not trying to do too much.

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MARQUEE MATCHUP

Browns DE Myles Garrett vs. Giants LT Andrew Thomas

Garrett is a physical marvel — he looks like someone created in a lab to fight Rocky Balboa — and has been one of the league's premier pass-rushers since he arrived in 2017. He has 90.5 career sacks, including two in two games this season. Thomas is an elite pass protector, making this a Battle Royale. Thomas has the technique, temperament and strength to make Garrett work for everything.

"[Thomas is] a heckuva player, and he'll be able to match up with not only Myles but anybody in the league," tight end Daniel Bellinger said.

Getty Images (2)

PAUL'S PICK

Remember the credo for this space: There's no picking the Giants until they actually win a game. Have to stick with that. This is a spot where it might happen. The Browns want to run it with James Ford and D'Onta Foreman behind a big, but beat-up, offensive line. This has not been a strength of the Giants. If players other than Malik Nabers get involved, maybe the road team can crack 24 points, which might be enough.



Losing can become an illness, and the Giants have looked sickly during an 0-2 start to the season. They need coach Brian Daboll to prescribe a remedy today in Cleveland to avoid a perilous 0-3 diagnosis that would put Big Blue in critical condition.

With season already on life support, coach must cure Big Blue, STAT!



PAGING DR. DABOLL

Steve Serby

CLEVELAND — It wasn't Brian Daboll who said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

But on Sunday at Huntington Bank Field against the Browns, Daboll confronts an old familiar fork in the road that has led to too many dead ends for recent Giants teams and regimes.

One bad turn deserves another on the Road to Oblivion.

A Woe-and-3 start would set Daboll and the Giants up for a doomsday scenario Thursday night when the Cowboys come barging into what would be a seething MetLife Stadium ... if not taunting Jerry World East.

John Mara has seen 0-2, knows what 0-2 feels like, knows where 0-2 can lead.

He knows better than most that it can get late early around here.

He has seen 0-2 under Tom Coughlin. He has seen 0-2 under Ben McAdoo, under Pat Shurmur, under Joe Judge. And now, he has seen 0-2 under Brian Daboll.

McAdoo, Shurmur and Judge didn't make it to a third season. Daboll has.

Mara wasn't ready to offer Daboll an extension after the Giants' 2-0 start in 2022, and he isn't ready to start drawing up a short list of coaching candidates for 2025 after 0-2 in 2024. Nor should he be. Not after two weeks.

But for the you-are-what-your-record-says-you-are aficionados, Daboll has lost 13 of his past 19 games, and his rookie Coach of the Year honors seem like a distant memory.

"I expect us to take a big step forward," Mara said in August.

He's still waiting for a first step forward.

Daboll doesn't need to be Coach of the Year today. He needs to be Coach of the Day.

Be better than Kevin Stefanski. Field a motivated, disciplined, fundamentally sound team that refuses to lose.

Otherwise, that's how a hot seat can become an inferno.

This is hardly the start Mara envisioned for the franchise's 100th anniversary season: 0-2 again ... against Sam Darnold and rookie Jayden Daniels. An 0-3 start against Darnold and Daniels and the ghost of Deshaun Watson, with $60 million man Dak Prescott looming, would signal to the fan base that the Big Blue sky is once again falling.

At least against Myles Garrett and this elite Browns defense, Daboll will have Greg Joseph available to kick PATs or field goals, so Daniel Jones won't have the burden of getting the ball into the end zone at every turn.

There is no way that Browns defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz or cornerback Denzel Ward will allow Malik Nabers 18 targets, so Daboll will need a more creative and diversified plan.

You don't kick your team when it's down, so this is what Daboll assured his players this week:

"We have all the ingredients we need."

His predecessors tried desperately to stir the pot and bring their 0-2 Giants to a boil:

Coughlin in 2013:

"I understand how the players feel. We're 0-2 and we've been 0-2 before, we dug our heels in before. When we did that it was all about 'team.' But our performance has to be better."

Coughlin in 2014:

"I believe! I'm a believer! Put me up at the top, OK? Blame me for the problems, put me at the top, as far as getting this thing done. And I think they can go do it."

Coughlin in 2015:

"We'll continue to be positive, and we'll continue to utilize our meeting time with positive reinforcements. Sooner or later, we just have to settle down and play the way we're capable of playing when the game is on the line."

McAdoo in 2017:

"Yeah, we can't keep doing the same thing over and over again. That's insanity. It's not working. So we are going to look to make some changes this week, like we did last week.

"Maybe it will be a little more drastic this week, to use your word. If that means me giving up play-calling duties, that's something we will look at, that we'll talk about. For personnel, jobs are won in this league, they are not given away. So somebody's got to win a job or take a job to get a job."

Shurmur in 2018:

"We look at everything all the time. I think what's important is we stay the course, get the players that we have playing better, and try to make more plays to do what's necessary to win the game."

Shurmur in 2019, before he benched Eli Manning for Jones:

"I think we've got to go back and look at how our team played, and we've got to go back and take steps to get better in all areas. I don't think that's a conversation for right now."

Judge in 2020:

"One thing we have to keep in mind is the NFL is a league of extremes. Week by week, someone is the best team in the league and someone is the worst. We just have to stay on our course of having daily improvement, which leads to weekly improvement which hopefully make us a better team by the end of the season. That's our goal."

Judge in 2021:

"I think it's important we talk about the process. Regardless of the outcome, you've got to come in and really view it objectively, understanding what do we have to correct and what do we do well enough to go ahead and build on?"

Nightmare scenario for Brian Daboll:

Déjà vu all over again.

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4DOWNS

Paul Schwartz's keys to the game:



ON THE REBOUND: By almost any measure, **Malik Nabers** was a dominant player in his second NFL game. He had 10 receptions for 127 yards and one touchdown. This was unprecedented. At 21 years and 49 days old, Nabers became the youngest player in league history with at least 10 catches, 100 receiving yards and a touchdown in a game. He had a key drop late in the game and beat himself up over it afterward. Next up: a tangle with veteran corner **Denzel Ward**, who is dealing with a shoulder issue. Ward is a tough customer who will use his veteran guile on the rookie.



TAKING IT TO THE GROUND: Devin Singletary found room to maneuver last week and responded by making defenders miss en route to 95 rushing yards, averaging 5.9 yards per attempt — helped by the fact second-year center **John Michael** Schmitz looks significantly improved.

"It was fun," Singletary said. "The big guys were getting movement, and I had to do my part and win my one-on-ones, and I was able to do that."

The Browns are allowing 5.0 yards per rushing attempt.

"It's a tough defense," Singletary said. "Those guys fly around."



MYSTERY MAN: What sort of quarterback is **Deshaun Watson**? We know he's not the phenom from 2020, when he threw 33 touchdown passes, just seven interceptions, amassed an NFL-high 4,823 passing yards and ran for 444 yards for the Texans. The Browns in the spring of 2022 guaranteed him $230 million, and since then he has played in just 14 games and been awash in sordid personal controversy. He has not played well in two games this season, but the Giants are wary.

"You never cannot kind of look past anybody in this league," **Kayvon Thibodeaux** said.



DAN THE BUILDER: At this point, the most encouraging comment someone can make about **Daniel Jones** is how offensive coordinator **Mike Kafka** described the quarterback's performance in Week 2: "I thought he was decisive but still plenty to improve on, but good job." The key word there is "decisive." Too often, "tentative" or "uncertain" are apt characterizations of a Jones outing. Now, can he do it against a much better Browns defense from what he went against in Washington?



MEDICINE 'BOLL

BIG BLUE COACH MUST ADMINISTER ANTIDOTE FOR WHAT AILS HIS TEAM



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NEW YORK POST
SUNDAY Sports
SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Jason Szenes

Alvarez, Mets beat Phils, take another step toward playoffs

HUNT FOR OCTOBER

TUESDAY TARGET FOR LINDOR

PAGE 79

Francisco Alvarez is excited about his two-run double in the seventh inning on Saturday. He should be, since it gave the Mets extra cushion in a 6-3 win over the division-leading Phillies at Citi Field. The victory kept the Amazin's two games ahead of the Braves in the race for the final NL wild card. **P. 78-79, 67**



YANKS BRING 'A' GAME

JUDGE HITS NO. 54 IN ROUT OF OAKLAND

PAGES 76-77





